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IPI sues to stop tax info release

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is suing the Commonwealth Casino Commission to prevent it from making public confidential tax information pursuant to an Open Government Act request and has already obtained a temporary restraining order to stop the release of the information.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo issued the temporary restraining order yesterday, June 24; it is effective for 10 days. He has scheduled both IPI and CCC to return to court for a preliminary injunction on July 9 at 9am.

IPI is represented by law-

yers Phillip Tydingco and Viola Alepuyo.

The temporary restraining order would restrain CCC from moving forward with disclosing the confidential tax information it had requested through the Open Government Act to the public until the pre-

See IPI on Page 4

MPLT ready to negotiate on LOC

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Trustees of the Marianas Public Land Trust are ready to meet with representatives of the Executive Branch and Legislature to begin negotiations on the Torres administration's request for a \$15-million line of credit to secure funds to pay its bond obligations and the Settlement Fund.

MPLT, through acting MPLT chair Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, sent a letter to the two parties that will be involved in the negotiations.

The letter was sent yesterday after the MPLT's meeting at their office on Capital Hill. It was addressed to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Atiao (R-Saipan) and Finance Secretary David Atalig with

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PINNING CEREMONY

Last Saturday, June 22, 2019, Northern Marianas College celebrated its nursing students who are graduating with their Associate of Science in Nursing during a Pinning Ceremony at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The graduating nursing students, together with students from other degree programs, will be graduating this Saturday, June 29, 2019, at NMC's 39th Commencement Exercise at the Koblerville Gymnasium at 4pm. The ceremony will also be live-streamed on NMC's Facebook page.

NMC

HR 559 gives a glimmer of hope

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Many in the community, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, are optimistic that H.R.

559 would be signed into law by President Donald J. Trump just in time before the June 29 expiration of the categorical parole program.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune*

that, with the help of CNMI Washington Office director Jason Osborne, they have been working with their counterparts in the White House and

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OAG drops 2 most serious charges vs man

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

As part of a plea deal it hampered out with the man who killed his landlord, the Of-

fice of the Attorney General has agreed to drop the two most serious charges against Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, but the court held off accepting the deal to give the

victim's family time to comment on its terms.

The Office of the Attorney General asked the Superior Court last Thursday to allow

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LOCAL

Construction of the U.S. courthouse building is now expected to be done by March 2020.

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LOCAL

The first-ever Rainbow Crosswalk at the Paseo de Marianas in unveiled to the public.

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NATION

Sen. Bernie Sanders and House progressives are unveiling legislation cancelling student debt.

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Local

Sea turtle saved from poacher on the nick of time

By MARC VENUS
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REPORTER

The CNMI Sea Turtle Program of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is appealing to the public not to disturb sea turtles that are visiting their nesting grounds in the CNMI.

This comes in the wake of a recent incident, as reported in its Facebook page, that an unknown poacher or poachers disturbed a sea turtle at its nesting ground last June 18.

The turtle, which was about to lay her eggs, had been flipped over. This indicates that the turtle was about to be poached, according to Endangered Species Program man-

ager Lisa Sztukowski.

She said the turtle was found by their Sea Turtle team, which also saw someone fleeing the scene. However, they were unable to get a clear description of the individual because they have not seen the turtle yet.

"We believe that the police came around shortly before the crew showed up and that scared the individual off," Sztukowski added.

The turtle had no signs of harm and was tagged before it was released and headed back to the beach.

According to the program's Facebook page, the sea turtle staff came across the flipped green sea turtle on one of

Saipan's east side beaches. It says that there remains only about 12 turtle nesting sites on Saipan.

Sea turtles almost always return to the exact same beach where they were born to lay their clutch of eggs. This means, sea turtles born elsewhere in the world will not come to lay their eggs in the Marianas.

The Sea Turtle Program has also been providing outreach and educational programs about the safety of the sea turtles. These efforts are made to inform the community about poaching of endangered animals.

"There are more than 20 nesting sites that we know of

around the island, and there are possibly more," DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente said. "If we have 1,000 [turtle eggs], and take out 10, we are still hurting their population."

The Sea Turtle Program seeks to move sea turtles up to the protected species list but that could take a long time. Benavente describe the timeline to be at least more than 10 years in order to reach that progress.

The green sea turtle is listed as an endangered specie. According to Sztukowski, turtles can take more than 20 years to fully mature and lay eggs. Sea turtles typically live between 30 and 50 years.

Anyone who has any in-

formation about any poached turtles or any suspicious activities that result in the injury/death of a turtle are urged to

contact the Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline at (670) 287-8537. Calls are anonymous and lines are open 24/7.



Top photo on the Facebook page of the CNMI Sea Turtle Program of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources shows a sea turtle that had been flipped over by an unknown poacher or poachers last June 18. Other photo shows the turtle on its correct side.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DUE TO SUPER TYPHOON YUTU'S DESTRUCTION

Target completion date moved to early next year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction work on the U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai is now expected to be completed in the early part of next year.

In an interview last Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last October forced the contractor to move the original target deadline this year.

Despite this, she said construction of the new federal courthouse building is moving along quite well.

"We are hoping to be able to open] next spring. So hopefully by March of next year—March 2020," Manglona said.

The original target completion date was this November but, because of Super Typhoon Yutu, the contractor could not meet that deadline.

Manglona said they are very pleased with the progress of the construction and are hoping to get the keys by early next year so they can move to the new building.

Manglona said there is no issue with lack of construction workers as the Guam contractor, Future World Corp. (Guam), has been able to provide the necessary manpower.

The groundbreaking to mark the construction of the project was held in December 2017.

U.S. General Services Administration awarded a 20-year lease to Marianas Management Corp. for the



Construction proceeds apace at the state-of-the-art U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai. Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation somehow delayed the project's completion. The new completion target is early next year instead of this November. The groundbreaking that marked the start of the construction was held in December 2017.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» 'Construction of US courthouse building moving along quite well'

construction of the building.

The lease will cost approximately \$2.4 million annually.

MMS is a subsidiary of Joeten Enterprises Inc.

The project is composed of a 53,000 square-foot, three-story court-

house with a basement, and two adjoining commercial buildings.

The building will include one courtroom, two judges' chambers, a jury assembly

room and office space for building tenants.

District Court chief deputy clerk Bill Bezzant said yesterday that due to construction budget constraint, the courthouse will only fit the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Marshal Service, and U.S. Attorney.

Bezzant said the other tenants of the Horiguchi Building (the Drug Enforcement Administration, Coast Guard, former Department of the Interior) will either remain in the Horiguchi building or will move elsewhere on Saipan.

He said the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and other federal agencies have existing office space

elsewhere and will remain in their existing offices throughout Saipan.

The District Court has been leasing office spaces at the Horiguchi building in Garapan since 1991. In the wake of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing in 1995, a federal assessment board determined that the current courthouse is the least safe in the nation. As a result, GSA decided to build a new federal building on Saipan.

The first District Court on Saipan was opened in 1978 at the Saipan InterContinental Hotel, now the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The District Court moved to the Nauru Building in Susupe, now the Marianas Business Plaza, and then to the Horiguchi building.



Manglona

DPS responds to 57 calls over the weekend

The CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to 57 active calls on Saipan this past weekend and made 13 arrests.

From 11pm on Friday, June 21, through 7pm on Sunday, June 23, police officers responded to 911 calls and were dispatched to 57 different cases, which include an assault and battery case, an auto-related incident, a burglary, a child abuse case, a child neglect case, a civil matter, a criminal mischief case, a delinquent child case, a disturbing the peace incident, a domestic vi-

olence incident, a driving under the influence case, a grass fire report, an illegal possession case, an incident related to property damage, an injured person report, a theft case, and a theft of service case.

DPS officers arrested 13 individuals for crimes including assault, assault and battery, burglary, driving under the influence, domestic violence, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

DPS encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. (PR)

Sablan: Senate shutdown endangers fate of budget bill

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Fearing a bottleneck of bills at the CNMI Senate, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is hoping that the upper chamber will still be able to avert any possible shutdown as this could scuttle efforts to pass a fiscal year 2020 budget for the CNMI government on time.

Sablan said that bills pending for action by the Senate would pile up at the upper chamber if it would close down before the 2019 fiscal year ends on Sept. 30.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) told the Executive branch last month that the Senate would close down from August to September, due to the senators' reduced

allotments.

The new fiscal year, 2020, begins on Oct. 1.

"We're hoping the Senate won't shut down. The senators will continue to get paid since their salaries are constitutionally protected. We have a job to do. We can't function as a body if the Senate shuts down," said Sablan. "I hope that it doesn't come to a shutdown. We can't pass any legislation and we can't pass the budget by ourselves. We need the Senate to remain open for

business."

Sablan added it will be a huge problem for the Legislature and the government as a whole if action on the CNMI budget is stalled. "The House hopes to pass a budget bill by the end of the month, then transmit it to the Senate. The Senate then will have the month of July to work on it."

The House will be having a session on Thursday, June 27, at 2:45pm in order for House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-

Saipan) to introduce the budget measure, House Bill 21-64.

The House committee of the whole is expected to pass the budget and have it transmitted to the Senate as soon as possible.

In his letter to Torres, Hocog said the Senate's decision to shut down operations in August and September was based on an analysis provided by fiscal analyst David S. Demapan showing their June allotment, the operational funds of the Senate, would totally depleted then.

"The analysis reveals that, from April to September, the members' monthly allotment

would have been \$2,950 and, by the end of the fiscal year, each member would have only received \$62,700 instead of the \$90,000, a 30.33 percent cut," Hocog said in his letter to Torres.

Hocog added that senators will have no choice but to make drastic cuts. "[Senators] would make unbearable decisions such as to release most of their staff, return all leased vehicles, and arrange payment plans on their outstanding invoices and services.

He recommended that the May allotment of \$2,752 be restored to all Senate members. "And make the allotment for June and July be at \$7,500."

As for the months of August and September, Hocog recommends zeroing out all allotments since no Senate office will be in operation.

Council to host first-ever PRIDE Talks

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting a film screening and presentations for its first-ever LGBTQ event called PRIDE Talks on June 27, at the Regal Cinemas, from 4pm to 9pm.

The event is free and doors will open at 4pm. The film is rated R (restricted), which means no one under 18 will be admitted due to the graphic content of the film.

The first 100 people will receive a free small popcorn and drink as well as a PRIDE T-shirt. The total seating is for 199, therefore seating is limited.

At 6pm the movie *Boy Erased* will be screened. Once it ends at 8pm, there will be presentations by Dr. Elizabeth Triche, Daniel Brown, Bishop Ryan Camacho, radio personality DJ Dice, Fr. James Balajadia, and Pastor Raymond Kinsela, with questions and answers to follow each presentation.

The event is meant to create awareness, bring information, show support, and encourage acceptance within the CNMI community.

The film is based on a true story of Jared Eamons, the son of a small-town Baptist pastor, who must overcome the fallout after being outed as gay to his parents. His father and mother struggle to reconcile their love for their son with their beliefs. Fearing a loss of family, friends, and community, Eamons is pressured into attending a conversion therapy program. While there, he comes into conflict with its leader and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self.

Join the NMI Humanities Council in celebrating PRIDE month in the CNMI!

For more information call the Council at 235-4785 or email at info@nmhcouncil.org. (PR)

US airline reps check out CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Representatives of a U.S. airline checked out the CNMI last month for the possibility of providing interisland services here, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board director Barrie C. Toves.

In an interview last Tuesday, Toves, who chairs the CPA board's airport facilities committee, said the airline's representatives checked the airport facilities on Saipan and even went down to Rota, where he met them.

Toves opted to not disclose the airline's name for now as there has been no official commitment yet.

He, however, hinted that

this airline is affiliated with United Airlines and possibly American Airlines, too.

He said the representatives were actually surprised at the quality of the Rota terminal.

He said this airline wants to build a maintenance hangar on Saipan for their aircraft so they can provide interisland services between Saipan and Tinian and between Saipan and Rota and Guam.

"They are going back home to put their proposals in a package," Toves said.

Because of this development, Toves asked CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds and CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio to already start communicating with federal partners, particu-

larly since the U.S. Transportation Security Administration is closing shop on Rota.

Toves said if this new airline comes in, TSA services would be needed so the airline can commit its flights to United Airlines to connect to international flights or even to the U.S. mainland.

This makes it important for TSA to reconsider its decision to close shop on Rota, he said. "We were informed that the TSA headquarters made the decision to close shop on Rota because there's no operation when Cape Air stopped flying," he added.

Toves said they have been given a heads-up that TSA is already mobilizing its equipment and that TSA employees have already been notified about the decision to close.

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IPI

From Page 1

liminary injunction hearing.

IPI claims that it would suffer immediate, irreparable injury if CCC discloses the tax information, which it says is confidential.

"Specifically, the court finds

that [IPI] will suffer injury if [CCC] releases the requested information. This injury is irreparable, and no monetary award will make [IPI] whole once the information is released. The court finds that [CCC] will not suffer any harm if the requested information is not released pending a determination of the merits of

[IPI's] petition," the court order stated.

According to IPI, they are suing CCC for planning to disclose the tax return information, which are protected under a provision of the CNMI Constitution, to the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to an OAG opinion they had received.

CCC told IPI that they could not provide IPI with a copy of the OAG opinion because it is confidential.

IPI, as an exclusive casino license holder, is subject to reporting requirements with CCC which include, but are not limited to, the monthly reporting of information relating to its Business Gross Revenue

Tax returns.

IPI filed the suit in order to permanently prohibit the CCC executive director and CCC staff from disclosing the tax information to the public even pursuant to an OGA request.

Ed Chen, chief financial officer of IPI, said that IPI received the OGA request from CCC on June 13, seeking three categories of information; audit reports for IPI/ Best Sunshine conducted by Ernst & Young for 2017 and 2018, all BGRT payments made by IPI to date with amounts and dates, and all corporate income taxes paid by IPI including dates paid.

Chen said that IPI objected to the OGA request, concerned

that the information being requested is confidential tax information and not subject to public disclosure under certain provisions of the Commonwealth law. CCC disagreed.

Chen further explained that IPI's annual financial statements are consolidated financial statements that incorporate tax and financial information from both Imperial Pacific Property LLC and Grand Marianas CNMI LLC.

"CCC disclosing a redacted copy of IPI's annual audited financial statements not only will disclose IPI confidential information, but also confidential information relating to the other two companies," Chen said.

Minority urges oversight on IPI

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) again voiced concerns over the inability of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in meeting its obligations to the CNMI government. Both legislators are asking their colleagues in the House of Representatives, particularly the Gaming Committee, to hold an oversight hearing on IPI.

Citing an audit report by accounting firm Ernst & Young on the financial statements of IPI for 2017 and 2018, Propst is hoping that the Commonwealth Casino Commission, which has oversight powers over the casino, would release more information on IPI's finances using the Open Government Act in obtaining the data.

IPI, however, obtained a temporary restraining order from the CNMI Superior

Court yesterday and is seeking a preliminary injunction to prevent the commission from releasing the tax information, insisting they are confidential.

"On June 13, 2019, the CCC notified IPI that an [OGA] request was received seeking information concerning IPI's audit financial statements by Ernst & Young, business gross revenue tax payments and corporate income taxes," IPI said in a statement. "CCC further notified IPI that an [CNMI] Attorney General opinion was received, which concluded that CCC could disclose the information sought in the OGA request. However, it could not provide IPI a copy of the AG opinion because it was confidential."

IPI now wants the Superior Court to prevent CCC from releasing the information, citing sections of the CNMI Constitution and statutory rights to privacy as legal basis.

"IPI is put between a rock and a hard place; we want a

good working relationship with our regulator, CCC, yet, as is expected of IPI, we must follow all laws, like everyone else. All we are doing is asking the court to enforce the laws that say that a person has a protected right to privacy with their tax and other sensitive company information," said the IPI statement. "IPI reports all our financial information to the CCC on a monthly basis. In fact, we always report more than what is required. There are certain information that are public record and those that are not. The OGA request to CCC is seeking confidential information pertaining to IPI. We reserve the right to keep them confidential."

IPI legal counsel Viola Alepuyo said local laws and the CNMI Constitution protect confidential and other sensitive information. "Therefore, IPI is taking steps in exercising its constitutional privacy rights and seek by requesting the [Superior] Court to grant IPI's request to stop CCC from re-

leasing confidential information relative to IPI."

Emotional plea

Speaking in yesterday's House session, Propst again accused IPI of not meeting its obligations to the CNMI government.

"In a time that we're cutting salaries and hours, we have a casino that is failing to do their share in paying taxes. ...I have talked to a small business owner who is upset after learning of the report. Why does [a small business owner] having to struggle to survive and keep their business afloat, have to pay [their] monthly [business gross revenue tax], when we have a casino that made grandiose promises and they are not fulfilling it?"

He added IPI, which operates the casino that was supposed to bring in revenues, is not delivering what it had promised.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

OAG

From Page 1

the government to remove the first-degree murder and attempted second-degree murder charges against Parongan, who is accused of killing his landlord and injuring the landlord's husband in a knife attack in Chalan Kanoa.

Instead, the OAG is charging Parongan with second-degree murder in the killing of Josephina Pineda, and assault with a dangerous weapon in the stabbing and injuring of Antonio Barit.

The original information

charged Parongan with first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Assistant attorney general Robert Charles Lee said the second amended information is being filed in anticipation of the parties entering into a plea agreement.

Lee said Parongan does not object to the second amended information.

In an order yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the prosecution, the defense counsel, and Parongan signed a plea agreement in court last Wednesday.

Camacho, however, noted that the victims' families, who watched all the previous court proceedings in this case, were not present in the courtroom.

This prompted Camacho to postpone the change of plea hearing for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10am, to give the victims' families an opportunity to address the court about the terms of the plea deal.

Camacho ordered the OAG's victim advocate to inform the victims' families of the change of plea hearing date and time.

Camacho said the victims' families may attend in person and will be given an opportunity

to address the court.

In an alternative, the judge said, the families may comment in writing.

The incident happened outside the rented room of Parongan, which is located next to the victims' house in Chalan Kanoa in the evening of Oct. 29, 2017.

Pineda suffered multiple stab wounds, while Barit sustained 12 injuries in different parts of the head and body, police said.

Police said that Parongan confessed during their interview to being high on drugs and being drunk on the day of the incident.

MPLT

From Page 1

copies also sent to Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and the MPLT trustees.

"This is to inform you that the trustees are ready to meet with you and your authorized personnel and/or staff from the Department of Finance/administration and Legislature on the potential terms and conditions for the revised [LOC] of \$15 million," said Pangelinan, a former senator in the

15th Legislature.

"The trustees met today [Monday], June 24, and received the report from the MPLT Ad Hoc Committee on the [LOC]. The committee had several recommendations and is now ready to work with you to review these terms and conditions," the letter adds.

Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*, in an interview, that their move is part of the ongoing discussions between the trustees and other involved parties on Torres' LOC request. "We are now prepared to meet with the other negotiating parties and see what would come out

of the discussions, hopefully with all the parties agreeing it will be to the best interest of the CNMI government and protects the trustees with their fiduciary duties."

She clarified that the meeting does not mean that MPLT had already approved the governor's request. "This is just a working group with the authorized individuals to start the negotiating process based on the trustees' due diligence and report, and other matters that would be necessary for us to comply as mandated in the [CNMI] Constitution."

Manibusan already issued

an opinion that the LOC is considered a "public debt."

Pangelinan added that the decision of the MPLT trustees will all depend on the outcome of the meeting. "It will depend on the negotiations that will take place with the authorized individuals that would be involved in the agreement."

"It would take the Legislature, the administration, and the trustees—all three [parties] would have to agree. If not, then that means we would come to [a decision] of not granting the request. Timing is of the importance because we know the government needs this money."

HOPE

From Page 1

Washington, D.C.

In an interview yesterday, Torres said his administration is optimistic that H.R. 559 will soon be signed into law and thanked everyone who helped move the bill forward, saying it is a collaborative effort, that everyone contributed.

"This is a very critical bill for our economy here in the CNMI and the livelihood of our people. I hope that this would assist us in our recovery and continue for us moving forward," he said.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services terminated the categorical parole program last December, but gave the 1,038 affected individuals a 180-day window to transition to other legal U.S. work visas before June 29. If H.R. 559 is not signed, the parolees and employment authorization document holders will need to leave the CNMI or become illegal since they no longer have any legal status to stay in the Commonwealth.

Delegate Gregorio Kilil C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced the legislation that would grant CNMI-only resident status to those under the categorical parole and EAD holders. Torres testified in Sablan's committee hearing in February and agreed to granting permanent residency status to the parolees.

Torres, in a separate statement, also thanked Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) for her leadership and help in pushing for the passage of H.R. 559 in the U.S. Senate. "After she received my letter emphasizing the urgency of this bill for our economy and many families, I'm grateful that she advocated for the CNMI through her influence in the Senate. Our strong partnership over the years and her understanding of important issues facing the CNMI have led to meaningful federal legislative victories to help our community."

He added that his administration has been in constant

communication with White House officials and U.S. Department of Homeland Security on this issue. "This path was recommended by [USCIS] to provide greater legal status for these individuals to remain in the CNMI. My office and I will continue to engage with the White House to reiterate the urgent need for this bill's enactment so that we keep families together and continue growing our economy."

Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. president Alex Sablan, who is also a board member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are also thankful to the combined efforts of Torres, Delegate Sablan, and the staff of their respective offices in Washington, D.C. "Their collaboration in the passage of this legislation is crucial."

"Once President Trump signs H.R. 559 into law, over a thousand individuals and their families that have been living, working, providing for their family, and the community of the CNMI will now have CNMI status and will not fear having to leave at their deadline, which was slated for the end of this month. Kudos to all that were involved."

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. has also expressed its support for H.R. 559.

"To be clear, this policy is a federally imposed immigration mandate, not the CNMI government. However, it is the sincere hope of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. that the U.S. Senate will timely act to address a potentially serious and irreparable impact on our extremely fragile economy."

NMDC added there would be humanitarian consequences if these individuals lose their status and are forced to leave the CNMI. "...One cannot imagine the emotional turmoil a family separation will cause on innocent children. We support this compelling social issue for these morally humanitarian reasons. *Gi tinayuyut yan amista.*"

Ninth Circuit affirms conviction of man who threw 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction and prison sentence of a man who threw a small baggie of crystal meth into a casino trash can in April 2016.

Ninth Circuit judges ruled that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not abuse her discretion by admitting the testimony of a drug supplier who had testified against Yang Zou.

Federal jurors found Zou guilty in April 2017 of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute at least five grams of methamphetamine on April 15, 2016.

Zou, a Chinese national, was accused of throwing 44 grams of methamphetamine wrapped in a plastic bag into a trash can inside the restroom of the Best Sunshine casino in Garapan.

He was sentenced to eight years and one month in prison. He appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

According to the Ninth Circuit decision issued by Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and Judges Consuelo M. Callahan and Morgan Christen, the U.S. government met its burden to establish the admissibility of the testimony of the prosecution witness Yang Kang Chen under Federal Rule of Evidence in the case against Zou.

The Ninth Circuit judges said that, given the weight of the evidence against Zou, even if the admissibility of Chen's testimony was error, it was harmless.

Zou argued, through counsel, that the District Court erred in admitting "other acts" evidence in allowing prosecution witness Chen to testify

that he (Zou) was one of his "ice" suppliers.

Chen had testified against Zou during the trial in a plea deal with the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison for distribution of methamphetamine.

The defense had objected to the admissibility of Chen's testimony. Manglona overruled the objection and gave the jury limiting instructions.

In affirming the conviction and sentence, the Ninth Circuit judges said they reviewed Manglona's evidentiary rulings for abuse of discretion.

The judges said there was evidence that on April 16, 2016, in response to a report of suspicious activity at Best Sunshine casino, the Commonwealth Casino Commission enforcement officer followed Zou into the restroom, saw Zou enter the handicap stall, heard him move the trash can and flush the toilet, and then followed him out of the casino.

A cleaning attendant had been cleaning the restroom when Zou entered. After Zou left the restroom, the attendant checked the trash can in the handicap stall and found something wrapped in plastic.

The attendant opened the plastic wrap to find two red Marlboro cigarette boxes containing small Ziploc bags of what appeared to be drugs.

It was later confirmed that the Ziploc bags contained approximately 40 grams of 97 percent pure methamphetamine.

Two of the eight fingerprints on the exterior plastic wrap matched those of Zou's.

Chen testified at trial that he started selling methamphetamine in 2014 and that Zou

was one of his suppliers.

According to Chen, Zou supplied Chen with methamphetamine three or four times every month, from September 2015 until July 2016.

Each time, Zou provided Chen with an average of 50 grams of methamphetamine concealed in red Marlboro cigarette boxes and charged Chen \$8,000, which equated to about \$160 per gram.

Chen sold the drugs for about \$220 per gram.

The Ninth Circuit judges said Chen's testimony was directly relevant to Zou's charge.

First, the judges said, the

intent or knowledge are elements of the crime of possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

Second, the judges said, the evidence of Zou previously supplying methamphetamine to Chen from September 2015 until July 2016 is not too remote because it "occurred during the pendency of the [events of April 16, 2016] with which [defendant] is charged."

Third, the judges said, Chen's testimony is sufficient to support a finding that Zou committed the other act.

Fourth, the judges said, even though "similarity is not

always a prerequisite to admissibility under Rule 404(b)," the other acts evidence here was very similar to the current charge—supplying methamphetamine in a Marlboro cigarette box with the intent to sell.

Zou also contended that the District Court abused its discretion in not excluding the evidence.

Zou argued that the evidence "inflamed the jury against Zou" and the prosecutor's closing remark that "that's what he does" was unfairly prejudicial.

The Ninth Circuit judges said the evidence here was

probative because it showed Zhou intended to distribute the methamphetamine, knew that the Marlboro boxes contained methamphetamine, and did not mistakenly place his fingerprints on the exterior plastic wrap of the Marlboro boxes.

The judges said any prejudice that may have occurred was minimized by the District Court's limiting instructions to the jury, both before Chen's testimony and at the close of evidence.

Zou further argued that even if the evidence was inadmissible, the error was not harmless. The Ninth Circuit judges disagreed.

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First-ever Rainbow Crosswalk in NMI is unveiled

By **MARC VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pride Marianas, in partnership with the Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2019, unveiled the first-ever Rainbow Crosswalk at the Paseo de Marianas last Friday as part of the celebration of June as

Pride Month.

The unveiling and ribbon-cutting for the crosswalk followed the Pride Walk held from the Carolinian Utt to Paseo de Marianas.

The Rainbow Crosswalk is intended to show the community's support for the LGBTQ+ community

in the Marianas and in Micronesia. The crosswalk connects the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Paseo de Marianas.

PCF member and keynote speaker Nola Hix thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other CNMI officials for their support, the Department of

Public Safety, the Department of Public Works, Department of Lands and Natural Resources – Parks & Recreation division, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

She said the crosswalk is symbolic to the LGBTQ+ community and shows support. "We hope to promote the

theme: Love wins in the Marianas," Hix added.

"This crosswalk is what represents what we are as a community and I hope that we create more crosswalks in the CNMI to spread the love," an LGBTQ+ spectator said.

Others present at the unveiling event were minority leader Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Richard Lizama

(R-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Others who spoke at the unveiling were press secretary Kevin Bautista, Pride Marianas president Frankie Elliptico, and TanHoldings Corp. president Jerry Tan.

LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning. The plus encompasses a list of other identities that fall under the gay umbrella.



Guests and dignitaries cut the ribbon to unveil the first-ever Rainbow Walk in the CNMI in front of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and connecting to the Paseo de Marianas last Friday. Inset shows the crosswalk before the unveiling ceremony.
MARC VENUS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Quake hits Pagan

At 10:05am yesterday, June 24, a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 22 kilometers northeast of Pagan. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damage to infrastructure and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. (PR)

Guam residents to visit Fena Cave on naval base

SANTA RITA, Guam—As part of Liberation Day events, a site visit will be held at the Fena Cave located at the Naval Munitions Annex at U.S. Naval Base Guam on July 19.

The visit, coordinated between Naval Base Guam, the Agat Mayor's Office, and Navy Munitions Command Pacific East Asia Division Unit Guam, will precede memorial held for Fena Cave Massacre victims at Old Agat Cemetery.

Attendees are asked to meet at 8:30am at the cemetery where they will board a bus and proceed to the cave site. Prior to the visit, guests are asked to contact the Agat Mayor's office at 565-2524 to reserve a bus seat.

After the cave visit, a memorial will be held at 10am at the cemetery.

On July 19, 1944 the Fena Cave Massacre occurred, when Japanese soldiers killed more than 30 young men and women from Agat and Sumay with grenades and bayonets in the caves near Fena Lake. During the past several years, the NMG commanding officer has invited the victims' families to visit the cave as part of Liberation Day ceremonies. (PR)

Labor finds Star Marianas Air didn't violate JVA declaration requirement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has cleared Star Marianas Air Inc. of alleged violation of a Labor law requirement in connection with its job vacancy announcement.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jacqueline A. Nicolas dismissed the complaint filed by the Labor Enforcement Section.

In an order last Friday, Nicolas ruled that, at this time, Star Marianas Air is not required to submit an employer declaration as there is no showing of a violation of an NMI Administrative Code section that requires the declaration.

Nicolas said the Enforcement Section's determination is silent on whether a citizen or permanent resident was hired—therefore it was unclear whether the employer declaration was required or whether the Administrative Code that requires such declaration was violated.

Under a section of the Administrative Code, in the event a citizen, a CNMI permanent resident, or U.S. permanent resident is not hired for the announced position, employers must file a declaration within 14 days after publication.

The declaration shall disclose who are the citizens and permanent residents who applied for the job, the action taken on each application, and a short statement of the reasons for rejecting any appli-

cant who was referred.

No declaration, however, is required if a citizen or permanent resident is hired.

Nicolas pointed out that Star Marianas Air's motion to dismiss, as well as testimony and exhibits from the hearing, demonstrate that a U.S. citizen was hired.

According to Labor records, Labor Enforcement Section alleged, in part, that in connection to a job vacancy announcement, Star Marianas Air failed to provide applicants Sara Frost and Berlyne P. Higgins with employer declarations.

Enforcement Section asked the Administrative Hearing Office to fine Star Marianas Air \$2,000 per violation and that the company be ordered to comply with the employer declaration requirement.

Last May 14, Star Marianas Air, through attorney Joey P. San Nicolas, filed a motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and failure to state a claim.

San Nicolas argued that there was no statutory jurisdiction and the declaration was not required because the company hired a U.S. citizen.

A hearing was held last June 11 at the administrative hearing office. Star Marianas Air president Shaun R. Christian, and three other company's employees appeared.

Labor Enforcement did not file a response to the motion to dismiss but indicated its intent to proceed with the hearing.

At hearing, Nicolas placed the matter under advisement.

In her order last week, Nicolas denied Star Marianas Air's motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction but still dismissed the case on the ground of failure to state a claim.

Nicolas said CNMI law requires employers to give qualified citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents preference for employment in the Commonwealth over foreign national workers, transitional workers, and nonimmigrant aliens.

To effectuate this employment preference and ensure maximum participation, she said, notice of every vacancy in a full-time job in the private sector in the Commonwealth for which any person other than a citizen, CNMI permanent resident, or U.S. permanent resident may be hired "must be given."

Generally, the employer gives notice by posting a job vacancy announcement on the Labor's website, www.marianaslabor.net.

Nicolas said employers must take appropriate actions on referrals or applications received in connection to the online JVA.

In the event a citizen, CNMI permanent resident, or U.S. permanent resident is not hired for the position, employers must file a declaration.

Nicolas found that Star Marianas Air posted a job vacancy announcement on

the Labor website for the position of customer service specialist last Feb. 18. The JVA advertised five openings. The opening date for the JVA was Feb. 18; the closing date was March 5.

Frost and Higgins responded to the JVA last Feb. 19 and 25 respectively.

On March 9, Star Marianas Air hired Fradley Jepen, a U.S. citizen, for one of the positions.

Subsequently, the company's human resource specialist began to call applicants to schedule an interview.

With respect to Frost, the HR called to schedule an interview on two occasions.



BATTLE OF TINIAN ANNIVERSARY

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, center, and Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, third from left, alongside Gov. Ralph Torres, third from right, and Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, second from right, listen to the closing benediction during a ceremony commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Tinian on the island of Tinian last June 16, 2019. The anniversary served as an opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the millions of brave service members who fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. THOMAS P. MILLER

HONOR ROLL

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 4th Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

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Adelle Jane Kautz
Amber Faith Militante
Ava Camrina Sablan
Brianna Palacios
Cali Jade Cabrera
Chloe Anne Marie Matsunaga
Chloe Cepeda
Ezaela Patrice Camacho
Heaven Agnes Deleon Guerrero
Hyunseo Yun
Jaelynn Lisua
Jayda Milan Torres
Jeremy Terlaje
John Mateo Rabang
Kathleen Cano
Ki Eun Lee
Krish Devjani
Lily Chantrea Lim
Manuel Villagomez
Mikayla Guerrero
Paige Kanae Cabrera
Reef Cole Reyes
Sia Choi
Victoria Eve Terlaje
Von Derick Lauron
Ye Lei (Bruce) Song

2ND GRADE

Bella Deleon Guerrero
David Joseph Camacho
Destiny Margarita Rayne Muna
Gonshiro Pedro Jose Sasamoto
Jaze Enzo San Nicolas
Kainoa Tenorio
Logan Matsumoto
Nea Zoe Dandan
O-Ren Fumiyo Sasamoto
Ryusei Asai
Zian Michael Obnimaga

3RD GRADE

Do Geon Kim
Isabella Soledad Demapan
Jessi Chen
Remiegem Melchor

4TH GRADE

Akoni Matsumoto
Angel Jireh Tengco
Carly Kate Dela Cruz
Christopher James Dela Cruz
Enzo Umeki Sasamoto
Hiromi Rosa Sasamoto
Hope McQuay
Jeffrey Concepcion
Jose Clarence Tenorio
Jupri Torres
Justin Mallari
Kaden Christian Propst
Kesil Camacho
Leah Michel Lansangan
Maya Jae Jung
Maya McQuay
Michael Calvo
Naomi Skye Matsumoto
Patricia Matsumoto
Patrick Guerrero
Pedro Jose Tomokane
Sage R. Villagomez
Sarah Angela Melchor

Wayne Dominic Ano
Yukiko Kiyomi Sasamoto

5TH GRADE

Ainsley Ancheta
Andrick Poon
Annieskha Arreza
Asa Vanessa Backe
Ayanna Faith Matsumoto
Camron Xavier Pangelinan
Chelsea Anne Sinkus
Gabin Kim
Gavril Myles Santiago
Heleyna Frielle Dela Santa
Jessiana Tenorio
Jieun Kwon
Joseph Brandon Pangelinan
Kai Manning
Lance Jericho Javier
Leonard Jake Regalado
Lexi Marie Lansangan
Mikaehla Paige Mendoza
Mya Pangelinan
Oscar Bien Buenafior
Peige Morgan Tomokane
Sophia Tenorio
Valerie Anne Estella
William Matthew Cano
Zion Jude Cabrera

6TH GRADE

Ari James Toskas
Arturo Rodrigo Travilla
Audrein Jennifer Mallari
Chelsy Anne Reyes
Dylan Santos
Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto
Irene Kim
Irie Kane Camacho
Jalen Nicholas
Jamie Lee
Juncheol Hwang
Kaeli Pathil
Laizza Vianca Mallari
Latisha Anne De Jesus
Mali Peter
Malina Rose Tenorio
Princes Amanda Habal
Tricia Antonnette Palacios
Vayden Matagolai

7TH GRADE

Brandon Lee
Earle Gabrell San Nicolas
Eunkyuu (Joey) Hong
IG Kamiya Nicole Obnimaga
Minki Jung
Paul Angelo Santos
Ruben Antonio Guerrero
Sua Kim
Tyana Kisha Tesiro

8TH GRADE

Brent Matthew Ortizo
Brissa Hunter
Donnie James Jr. Militante
Eric Oh
Jill Anne Marie Mallari
Keehara Nielsen Baldazo
Kyla Monique Cabrera
Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan
Mathew Adrian Sablan
Raphael Christian Galang
Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto

FRESHMEN

Aleia Santos
Alleah Marie Mendiola
Fiona Marielle Bucalig
Hannah Lacap
Jeremiah Jerome Diaz
Judy Bang
Kaia Travilla
Larry Dean Cruz
Monique Laura Duenas
Richard Jesus Villagomez
Theresa Rose Schweiger
Vaughn Andrei Mallari

Victoria Ancheta

SOPHOMORES

Brandee Hunter
Connie Zhu
Jieyu Lin
Katherine Avendano
Woodruff
Mikee Mame Mendoza
Penelope Sablan
Puti'on Palacios-Camacho
Skyler Poon
Victoria Nicole Santos
Vince Philip Salvador

JUNIORS

Bom (Emmeline) Lee
Casey Pathil
Danielle Jaden Yamagata-Santos
Francesca Marie Bucalig
Jeffrey Chua
Jim Michael Ham
Kalea Lou Borja
Valerie Anne Estella
Lleyton Andre Javier
Nicole Pak
Riley Anne Buenaventura

SENIORS

Aldwin Ray Batusin
Angelo Gabriel Manese
Danishelle Faye Javillonar
Dayna Lou Macaranas
Eunseo Choi
Gary Camacho
Giselle Ivy Leong
Hyo Lim Cho
Jan Emmanuel Bobadilla
Joanie Paraiso
Karen Sato
Louisa Sa Han
Maria Lael Terlaje
Matt Jason Moran
Minju Kang
Quincy Lenn Mikaila Chinen
Reica Jucel Ramirez
Rosa Castro
Rosalia Francine Pangelinan
Seo Yeon Lee
Suhwan Bae

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1ST GRADE

Franco Ray Tudela
Reesa Marie Borja
Ruben III Tengco

2ND GRADE

Bentley James Alben
Caleb John Aldan
Donald Laurence Amwolschigh
Tagabuel
Donray Abholmwar Barcinas
Elijah Dela Cruz
Esrae Aguon
Haein Lee
Leonmar Jaedon Regalado
Liana Margaret Deleon Guerrero

Miguel Garret Mendoza

3RD GRADE

Andrea Fhe Remilloza
Aubrey Rae Quitugua
Aya Santos
Cecilia R. Villagomez
Cyril Michael Pangilinan
Francisco Maratita
Gabriella Aundrea Inos
Jadine Nicole Pangelinan
Janessa Francine Arriola
Jayson Jared Tagabuel
Julius Sheu
Katherine Hwang
Kayla Larson
Layla Carmen Ann Palacios

4TH GRADE

Christine Rosanne Castro
Frank Anthony Reyes
Nicole Angela Pangilinan
Risha Cabrera

5TH GRADE

Chae Eun Kim
Jasmine Meleana Deleon Guerrero
Meagan Camacho
Michael Mercado
Nyla Deleon Guerrero
Quince Emanuele Tizon
Quinn Thomas Palacios
Seunghee Jeon
Ye Sol Ha

6TH GRADE

Alvin Choi
Aryana Carmen Taimanao
Breana Ysabel Patawaran
Claire Regina Kautz
Davina Chae
Jada Chang
Jada Monique Deleon Guerrero
Lyssa Rae Steele
Narhya Mersai
Nevaeh Sky Taisacan
Nicole Erin Mariano

Rafael Mykel Gozon

7TH GRADE

Breanna Sue Mafnas
Camille Alannah Sablan
Devin Jordan Propst
Elisha Joy Lacap
Franshia Jolie Babauta
Gwen Tiffany Gamab
Ierlyma Nicole Deleon Guerrero
Jazmin Jay Tagabuel
Jeery Chen
Kaitlyn Punzalan
Kriselle Bryana Mitzy Drilon
Leo Bang
Maria Torres
Marini Millo
Mark Jainier Chavez
Natalie Gabrielle Ano
Palikun George

8TH GRADE

Derek Moritaro Sasamoto

Francine Monique Albuen
Kayannie Peter
Kexuan Yu
Kina Dela Cruz
Leopoldo Naraja
Leunyce Regalado
Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
O'Hane Borja
Renee Kiser
Sierra Rose Reyes
Sophia Michelle Cornelio

FRESHMEN

Christian Felix Guerrero
Christopher Adam Mafnas
Cristina Bang
Esperanza Maria Milagro Castro
Gayle Noreen Vidal
Hyunkyu Park
Isaac Brandt
Jeffrey Sheu
Joshua Donovan Tenorio
JunBeom Kim
Kiana Lei Propst

Mariana Tenorio
Raesyl Gerard Solis
Richard Ramon Steele
Robin Kyle Alvarez
Sean sungmook Lee
SeongEon Heo
Taliyah Bocago
William Nathaniel Ano
Yu Jeong Son

SOPHOMORES

Brian Yoon
Carmille Perez
John Isaac San Nicolas
Kevin Kang
Mateo Guerrero
Nathanael Ryne Cunanan
Raymalyn Guanlao
Reuben Christian Tomboc
Seungwoo (Raffy) Lee
Xavier Gatmaitan

JUNIORS

Haesu Yeo
Jan Matthew Millo

Jehyuk Jung
Julia Taguchi
Keon Dodge Apolonio
Seo Kyoung (Michelle) Kim
Seongbin Heo
Vincent John Reyes
William Blake Deleon Guerrero

SENIORS

Amanda Pangelinan
Angela Jun
Angelina Aldan
Anniea Saturno
Christine Mago
Earl Daivick Tabora
Erika Gabrielle Cunanan
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NEW GRADUATE**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Congratulations to Brianna Fajardo, who is the first Pacific islander to graduate from the Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. Fajardo, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, with minors in Gerontology and Peace & Social Justice, is the daughter of Mariano and Barbie Fajardo.

'Give free legal service to domestic violence survivors'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyers in the CNMI are being encouraged to provide free legal services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In a seminar at the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday, 27 lawyers in the CNMI explored the many opportunities here in the Commonwealth on how they can provide legal services under the POWER Act, or Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act, a civil law that was enacted in September 2018 by President Donald J. Trump.

The seminar, called "The POWER Act and Pro bono Opportunities in the CNMI 'Get a little, give a little,'" was held with the CNMI Superior Court-Family Court Division, the CNMI Bar Association, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Community Guidance Center, and Karidat Social Services.

In an interview, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the Power Act encourages attorneys to accept cases of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to help



them through the system so that they not only learn about their rights under the law but also what would give them access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare.

Manglona said the seminar was in conjunction with service providers that are experts in the area of CNMI domestic violence protection and prevention.

The judge said the seminar allows attorneys to learn full process, especially for those

who don't practice this area of law.

In the first session, many lawyers were already getting information that they never knew before. The presenters were all local residents because it's all local law.

"The presenters are really from the people who handle these...cases on a day-to-day basis," she said.

Manglona said they gathered all the service providers to help survivors of domes-

tic violence through the civil procedures. The seminar participants, on the other hand, included attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Public Defender, who are getting free continuing legal education hours, but are also learning much on the civil side.

In her remarks during the seminar, Manglona said that Congress made several findings regarding violence against individuals when lawmakers enacted the POWER Act.

She said Congress found that there existed extremely high rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking at the local, state, tribal, and national levels.

"Congress determined that pro bono assistance can help fill the need for legal representation for those in need of assistance, not just by providing legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare,"

the judge said.

The POWER Act requires the chief district judge in each district, or his or her designee, to lead at least one public event, "in partnership with a state, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a state or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and engage citizens in assisting those survivors."

Earlier this year, Manglona reached out to local service providers to create a committee to come up with a plan to implement the POWER Act.

Manglona said they had their first meeting last March 22 and they started with the CNMI Bar Association, represented by its president, Rene Holmes; Micronesian Legal Services Corp.'s Jane Mack; Lauri Ogumoro from Karidat, and Maisie Tenorio from the Northern Marianas

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona makes a point in Community Guidance Center's Christopher Cabrera's presentation at the District Court on the Ti Chechu Lahi Program during a seminar about the POWER Act and pro bono opportunities in the CNMI last Friday.

Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

The committee grew to include Superior Court Family Court Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and the Community Guidance Center.

Manglona said the seminar is the product of the committee's decision to start with the basics for lawyers who do not regularly practice in this area to learn from service providers.

"Our goal is to compile all CNMI laws and services available in this area to bring awareness and resources together," said Manglona.

In addition to getting continuing education credits for this year, Manglona hopes that the lawyers all learn enough about this area of the law and to provide assistance to those in need that would greatly impact not only a client, but maybe a family member or friend that could use the information.

The presenters at the seminar were MLSC directing attorney Jane Mack, Office of the Attorney General victim advocate Juan Aguon, Superior Court Family Court Division Family Court manager Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence program manager Angelyn Palacios, and Community Guidance Center Ti Chechu Lahi Program's Christopher Cabrera.

Ninth Circuit names national civics contest winners

SAN FRANCISCO—Young people from Alaska, Arizona, California, and Nevada have been selected the winners of the 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an educational outreach effort to high school students sponsored by the federal courts.

The theme of the 2019 contest was "The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century—What is an 'Unreasonable Search and Seizure' in the Digital Age?" Students were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video explaining how Congress and the federal courts have applied 4th Amendment protections to electronic data devices, particularly the cellphones upon which almost everyone relies.

Winners in the essay competition are:

■ **First place:** Natalie Fraser, a junior at West High School in Anchorage, Alaska;

■ **Second place:** Kellen Vu, a recent graduate of Arizona School for the Arts in Phoenix; and

■ **Third place:** Jessica Chou, a recent graduate of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California.

Winners in the video competition are:

■ **First place:** The team of Matthew Lovering, Colton Massic and Jason Mueller, recent graduates of Spanish Springs High School in Sparks, Nevada;

■ **Second place:** Raveena

Lele, a sophomore at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, California; and

■ **Third place:** The team of Jessica Chou, Maxwell Tong and Aaron Wu, recent graduates of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California.

The winning essays and videos will be posted to the contest website, www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest, in July.

The competition was open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Approximately 1,300 young people entered the contest, which offered cash prizes, an opportunity for travel, and a chance to meet some of the nation's preeminent jurists and legal practitioners.

Federal courts in all 15 judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners going on to compete in the circuit-wide competition. In all, 44 essays and 25 videos were selected for final consideration by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee, which organized the contest. Blind judging was employed in both the preliminary and final rounds.

"We are very pleased that many students from all parts of the Ninth Circuit submitted many outstanding essays and videos, demonstrating

an understanding and the importance of the 4th Amendment," said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, who chairs the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee.

At the circuit level, prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners in both the essay and video competition. In addition, first-place winners along with a parent or guardian will be invited to attend the opening session of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Prize money and travel costs for the winners are funded through attorney admission fees collected by the federal courts in the Ninth Circuit to fund educational programs for the bar and community.

The Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee was established in 2000 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the West. The committee seeks to promote public understanding of and confidence in the judicial system through civics education and outreach to the community and media. The committee includes federal judges, lawyers, and court staff. This is the sixth consecutive year in which the committee has organized a civics contest in conjunction with the circuit conference. (PR)



CAR SERVICE GIVEAWAY

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019. Pacifica staff member Dionne Camacho, right, presents Georgia Cabrera, left, with the car service gift certificate. Cabrera will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trial for Rota mayor to be held in January 2020

By **KIMBERLY BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The trial of Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and his co-defendants will be pushed back and may be held in January 2020, but the date is still subject to approval by the Superior Court.

During a hearing last week, the prosecution requested the court to push the jury trial for Atalig and resident directors back to January 2020 because the Office of the Attorney General's Robert Charles Lee would be prosecuting another case involving an alleged murderer.

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja previously set the jury trial for Atalig on Sept. 9, 2019, which is concurrent with the *CNMI vs. Alfonso Sebastian Parongan* jury trial that may take several weeks

to complete.

The defendants and their lawyers had no objection to Lee's request except for assistant public defender Heather Zona, who represents Rota Department of Public Works resident director Vanessa Charfauros.

Zona objected on the grounds of speedy trial but the other lawyers for the defendants reportedly have no schedule conflicts in January 2020, according to Lee.

The date for a jury trial is still under discussion and remains subject to approval by the Superior Court. A hearing is scheduled for July 2.

According to court information, Charfauros and Atalig's co-defendants are Department of Labor Rota resident director Dexter Apatang, Department of Commerce Rota resident director

Dean Manglona, Department of Finance Rota resident director Josepha Manglona, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Rota resident director Dennis Mendiola, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Rota resident director Magdalena Mesngon, and former Department of Public Safety Rota resident director Eusebio Manglona.

Mesngon has already pleaded guilty and will not stand trial. She agreed to participate in an adult diversion program under the CNMI Adult Probation Office.

All the defendants were charged with theft and misconduct in public office by the OAG for taking government funds and salary compensation to attend a Republican campaign rally in Guam in June 2018.



NATIONAL COMPETITION

Mount Carmel School congratulates Jill Mallari and her coach, Criselda Aldan, for making it to the quarterfinals of the 2019 National Junior Speech and Debate Association National Competition in three categories: Prose, Declamation, and Original Oratory.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Public meeting on Garapan Revitalization Plan

The Office of Planning and Development, Zoning Office, and the Garapan Revitalization Task Force will be hosting a stakeholder meeting to discuss the Garapan Revitalization Plan. The meetings will be held as follows:

■ Wednesday, June 26, 9am, Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Garapan

■ Friday, June 28, 4pm, American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater, Garapan

Both meetings are open to the public. Guest speakers in-

clude former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann and Waikiki Improvement Association president Rick Egged.

For more information, contact the Office of Planning and Development at (670) 664-2271. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña meets the new CHCC interns at her office.

CHCC takes in 6 interns

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has taken six interns under its wing this summer.

The six—Sashe Tilles, Drew Wodecki, Efren S. Nicholas, John Mithnoy, David Phan, and Emman Parian—are all interning in different CHCC departments.

Tilles and Wodecki are from the University of California, Berkeley campus and are both working toward their masters of public health degrees. Tilles is working with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau this summer for a research project regarding the use of contraceptives in the CNMI, while Wodecki is working on analyzing Medicaid data and cost-saving measures with the Division of Public Health Services and the CHCC Information Technology department.

Nicholas is with the CHCC IT department as well, while Mithnoy, a student at the Northern Marianas College, is involved with both the IT department and the Corporate Quality and Performance Management Office.

Parian, a student at the Pacific University in Oregon, is working with Mithnoy as peer-to-peer coaches to help

implement a self-management program under the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, or ASTHO, Hypertension and Control Identification Project.

Fellow NMC student Phan is working with the CHCC communications department on social media strategies and outreach.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña met with the six interns last week.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB19-CIP-099

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE
FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA, P.E.
CIP ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM — OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1 June 20, 2019 ITB19-GOV-083

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

1. Fourth paragraph: The pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled for July 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com or Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at esb.cip@gmail.com no later than July 12, 2019, 4:30 p.m. ChST.

2. Fifth paragraph: Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-083 Supply & Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist for the Tinian Transfer Station**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time on July 29, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, July 29, 2019, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 29, 2019, and must be received no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, on August 7, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, August 8, 2019. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders from outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, on July 29, 2019.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

In praise of ingenuity: America's record economic expansion

Ten years ago this month, the U.S. unemployment rate was a disastrous 9.5 percent. General Motors, requiring a government bailout, filed for bankruptcy protection. Would the American auto industry even survive?

That bleak age isn't forgotten, but it is long gone. The U.S. pulled out of recession in June 2009 and hasn't looked back. Barring catastrophe, the economy next month will set a new record for the longest continuous period of expansion. The current record was set amid the 1990s tech boom.

A boast like that—10 years of straight growth!—means less to individual Americans than their current state of economic wellness and expectations for the future. Today's paycheck, and tomorrow's, is more important than 2009's.

The expansion speaks to the resilience of the American economy—or more specifically, the relentless drive of American employers, entrepreneurs and workers to compete, reinvent and succeed. Business was brought to its knees during the Great Recession of 2007-09. Since then, the economy hasn't stopped growing.

In other words, Americans are in the thick of what is shaping up to be a record-setting era of increased prosperity. The unemployment rate today is 3.6%, a 50-year low. The jobless rate for African-Americans and Latinos is at or near record lows since 1973 when such record-keeping began. Stocks are at startling highs. The situation isn't perfect. Many people who fell on hard times haven't recovered and home values haven't come back everywhere. But jobs are plentiful, which means so is opportunity.

On the Great Recession and its aftermath: The financial crisis was caused in part by lax, greedy lenders who set off an unsustainable housing boom. The subsequent crash took financial institutions with it and wiped out trillions of dollars of wealth. To save the day, the U.S. government stepped in with a monumental bailout supported by years of aggressive Federal Reserve actions.

Given the government's vast resources, recovery at some point was inevitable. What's remarkable is the uninterrupted growth that's followed. We attribute this to dynamism—the ingenuity and flexibility of Americans and their economy. Consider the vast scale of the digital revolution, and how the most important personal tool most people possess—an internet-enabled cellphone—was introduced by Apple in 2007.

Think about how the nature of work has changed: The company leasing the most office space in downtown Chicago today is WeWork, a firm that offers shared work space. WeWork was founded in 2010.

Other accomplishments: Next year, the U.S. will export more energy products than it imports, reversing 70 years of history. GM, recovered from bankruptcy, expects a radically different future driven by electric vehicles.

Those are specifics. A broader aspect of American ingenuity: Productivity, which measures American workers' efficien-

See EDITORIAL on next page



Chernobyl: A teachable moment

A recent book "Midnight in Chernobyl" and an HBO miniseries on Chernobyl have brought to light the nuclear power plant disaster that took place 33 years ago. Interestingly, the way the bureaucrats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dealt with the catastrophic risk is precisely the opposite of how United States bureaucrats deal with it. How each group handles risk is affected by whether or not they "own" the risks. Let me explain.

The "socialism" of the USSR refers to the state owning the means of production. In this case, the USSR owned the nuclear power plants in Chernobyl, Ukraine, when Ukraine was still a satellite state.

The explosion that blew up Chernobyl's Unit 4 reactor was the most devastating nuclear accident in history. Directly, there were 62 documented deaths amongst exposed workers and first responders. For comparison, there were no deaths from the Three Mile Island incident in Pennsylvania 40 years ago or the Fukushima accident in Japan in 2011.

As author Adam Higginbotham explains in "Midnight in Chernobyl," that plant's director and local KGB officers took measures to explain that there were "no radioactive releases" to "prevent the spread of panic-mongering, provocative rumors and other negative manifestations." They did not evacuate the people of the surrounding cities because, as Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Boris Shcherbina said, "How are you going to evacuate all these people? We'll be humiliated in front of the whole world."

Because the Soviet government owned both the risk and the results of the accident, it was only after satellite photos revealed the disaster that the evacuation took place.

The situation is different in the United States, a market-driven economy. With the exception of the Tennessee Valley Authority, energy production—just like most goods and services—is privately owned. Most goods and services, however, are regulated by the U.S. government as well as state and local authorities. Private companies own the risks; the regulatory agencies just set the rules for production.

This makes the incentives different. Rather than pretending risks are nonexistent or small, U.S. agencies are "conservative"—sometimes even too careful—by overestimating risks.

By **RICHARD WILLIAMS**

Tribune News Service

Richard Williams is a senior affiliated scholar with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and former director for social sciences at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the Food and Drug Administration.



The Environmental Protection Agency, for example, acknowledges this when it states that it seeks "to adequately protect public and environmental health by ensuring that risk is not likely to be underestimated."

High levels of exposure to ionizing radiation are, without question, extremely dangerous. Meanwhile, multiple studies have shown that lower levels are not only safe, but can actually be beneficial to our health. So, where the Soviets publicly undervalued the risks from lethal exposures to radiation, U.S. regulatory agencies overplay the risks of low doses. We should seek to improve our system, but be grateful it's not the alternative.

For example, the EPA sets a "dangerous" level of exposure to indoor radon gas at 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air, where studies indicate a threshold of between 8 and 27 pCi/L. In fact, evolutionary biologists tell us that ionizing radiation was key for the evolution of life on our planet. As damaging as it can be in high doses, without it, there would be no life on earth.

There is another big difference between Soviet and U.S. bureaucracies: who pays to mitigate the risks. At Chernobyl, paying for safety came out of the state budget, which resulted in fewer controls. In the United States, regulators don't pay for the regulations they pass—consumers and owners do. Fortunately, there are private incentives to reduce risk in the United States. Otherwise, firms fall victim to lawsuits and lost business.

Ultimately, the Chernobyl incident contributed to the fall of the Soviet government. People no longer believed in a Soviet socialist system where government controls both production and safety. While we clearly have problems with our regulatory system, we should be aware of the lessons from Chernobyl as we contemplate government ownership of different industries.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Taking a hard line on Iran doesn't have to mean war

Where Iran is concerned, there are hard-liners and hard hard-liners. Everyone, in both camps, wants to ensure that Iran doesn't have a nuclear weapon, and everyone wants to stop Iran's malign behavior in the Middle East and elsewhere, ensuring peace and stability. The critical difference is how that set of objectives is reached.

The hard-liners, and I am one of them, believe in the nuclear deal struck during the Obama administration and in taking the path of further negotiations and non-nuclear sanctions to address Iran's behavior. The hard hard-liners, on the other hand, successfully pushed for withdrawing from the deal and now favor an escalatory cycle that seems to be putting us on a path to war.

The hard-liners, led by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (the United States, France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia), Germany and the European Union, negotiated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to ensure Iran wouldn't obtain a nuclear weapon. They kept in place multiple sanctions and an array of other tools that allowed the coalition to effectively push back against Iran's nefarious actions in the Middle East.

In the absence of a formal diplomatic relationship, the nuclear deal also established a channel of communication between the United States and Iran that could be activated as issues arose. As undersecretary of State for political affairs, I led the U.S. team that negotiated the deal, and I saw firsthand what it accomplished. When U.S. sailors were detained by the Iranians, for example, phone communication between then-Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif resulted in the sailors' freedom within 24 hours. The deal was also used as leverage to negotiate a release of other Americans held by Iran. The number of Americans being detained in Iran has risen since Trump withdrew from the deal.

President Obama never promised a normal relationship with Iran. Negotiations helped to build mutual respect and understanding, but by no means was there trust. Obama knew, how-

ever, that Iran getting a nuclear weapon would fundamentally alter the balance of power in the Middle East and threaten our allies. He hoped, without any certainty, of course, that a Western presence in Iran would encourage more normal behavior by Iran and help the Iranian people, who have been subjected to human rights abuses. Iran has its own struggle between hard-liners and hard hard-liners, and keeping a communication line open with the West has the potential to help the country's hard-liners stand up to its hard hard-liners, led by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp.

Unfortunately, it seems that the hard hard-liners of the world are winning out. The hard hard-liners of Iran never wanted the nuclear deal. The Revolutionary Guard owned the black market when sanctions were in full force and had no interest in opening up Iran to foreign influence or business interests. The Guard and its elite unit, the Quds Force, led by Qassem Soleimani, were not and are not supporters of President Hassan Rouhani, who, although a conservative cleric, is a hard-liner, not a hard hard-liner. Soleimani argued before the deal was signed that the United States was a Trojan horse and could not be trusted to keep any agreement.

In the early days of the Trump administration, H.R. McMaster, then national security advisor; James N. Mattis, then secretary of Defense; and John F. Kelly, then chief of staff, all hard-liners, held President Trump back from completely withdrawing from the nuclear deal. They hoped to press Iran and world leaders to build on it, addressing outstanding issues. When they all left the administration, the president followed through on his campaign promise to withdraw from the agreement, reimposing sanctions, and embarking on the dangerous escalatory path we are on today.

In the United States, the hard hard-liners are led by national security advisor John Bolton, and he has found an ally in Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, also a hard hard-liner, sees his electoral fortunes tied to his stance in the face of Iranian threat. The objective of all of them seems to be regime change.

By WENDY R. SHERMAN

Los Angeles Times

Wendy R. Sherman is director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School and author of *Not for the Faint of Heart: Lessons in Courage, Power and Persistence*. As undersecretary of State for political affairs, she led the U.S. team negotiating on the Iran nuclear deal.



The ascendancy of the hard hard-liners in the United States has strengthened the hand of their counterparts in Iran, pushing Tehran also to take an escalatory approach. The hard hard-liners in Iran are now attempting to reassert control, and despite withering economic sanctions, Iran has increased its malign behavior in the region.

At a time when the United States has very challenging relationships with Turkey, Iraq and Afghanistan, the Trump administration's approach serves to strengthen these countries' relationships with Iran, Russia and China, to our disadvantage. And the administration's break with Europe on the nuclear deal has weakened our historic and consequential alliances there.

The administration is now dominated by hard hard-liners, including Bolton and Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo. This is particularly dangerous as the president contemplates a response to both the tanker attacks at the opening of the Strait of Hormuz and to Iran's recent declaration that, later this month, it will break through the enrichment limit imposed by the nuclear deal.

Pompeo has signaled that all options are on the table with regard to Iran, including a military strike. Polling has found that Americans have little appetite for war, but the hard hard-liners of the Trump administration—and Iran in reaction to their policies—may just take us there.

EDITORIAL

From Page 10

cy, is rising at the fastest clip since 2010. That means the economy "can grow at a faster pace on a more sustained basis," economist Blerina Uraci of Barclay's told The Wall Street Journal. What does greater productivity look like? One example is how companies to-

day use cloud computing and machine learning—both novel concepts in 2007—to manufacture goods more efficiently.

Economies, alas, don't expand perpetually. As always, the next recession is coming, the only question is when. For now, American businesses are getting big boosts from tax cuts and deregulation under President Donald Trump, but his hostility toward global trade puts growth at risk: While U.S. companies, farmers and consumers benefit enormously from trade, Trump

wages a costly tariff tiff with China. The quicker he resolves such disputes, the better. The Federal Reserve has hinted it may lower interest rates to mitigate the damage.

Ten years of economic expansion is a remarkable achievement for American employers and workers. Today's Mission Possible: Maintain the private sector's refreshing success—and keep the boom going.

© 2019 Chicago Tribune

Our photographer risked his life to show us the world as it is. Let's be grateful for him and all journalists like him

This week started with our colleague and friend, Tom Fox, suddenly finding himself in the midst of a violent assault on the judiciary. Rather than flee, he took up his camera and shot the suspect with something other than bullets. As he has done tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of times, before he lifted his camera. And in its eye, Fox captured the suspect in the thrall of his attack.

This is first stunning—who has the courage, the habit, the skill and the quickness of mind in such a moment other than a professional deeply dedicated to his craft? Second, the moment is also reflective of the larger public service that is reporting to a community what is happening and why—or, in the case of an opinion section like ours, what might be done about it to shape our common trajectory.

Reporters and photographers across the globe do this every day. Journalists don't always get it right, and not every person purporting to be a journalist takes with them the approach of letting the facts shape the story. But there is an importance to having professionals out there, on the streets, in the rooms of power, telling the rest of us what is happening that is too often overlooked. Too often

we forget that our public debate is what determines the success of our society, and too often we take for granted that even basic facts are widely known about what is happening.

Repressive regimes understand the power and importance of a free press, perhaps at times better than those in free societies. After all, there is a reason why journalists in Russia, Venezuela, and China (to pick just a handful of oppressive countries) are either on the run from state control or outright under the influence of the very powers that society needs to come under the scrutiny of honest, fair reporting.

Repressive regimes understand that to allow an unfettered media—even a lone photographer who feels free to memorialize on film whatever is before him or her—is to open the gates to self governance. A society that is well informed is a society that can determine its own destiny.

This is why journalists are often targeted for killing across the world, and why free speech itself is an essential ingredient to our society. We met recently with a group of journalists visiting from South America. We asked them a simple question: After visiting our newsroom, what is the biggest difference between

journalists in the United States and the press in your home countries? The answer for more than a half dozen journalists was the same. Some of it came through in fragmented English and other comments were translated. But the message was the same, in the United States there is a level of freedom of the press that is impressive, important, and not as freely felt elsewhere in the world.

Journalists elsewhere might publish freely, but they often do so with a feeling that they need to look over their shoulders.

That doesn't mean there isn't danger. To paraphrase something Fox said after Monday's terrifying event: stay in this business long enough and at some point you will be in the line of fire. That's especially true for photographers and reporters whose work sends them to dangerous places, even in our own city.






We are grateful for Tom Fox. We are so grateful he and others were spared in Monday's violence. We should all be grateful for the press freedoms he was exercising.

And we are thinking today of all those who take risks—often risking everything—just to capture an image or otherwise tell the world what is happening around us.

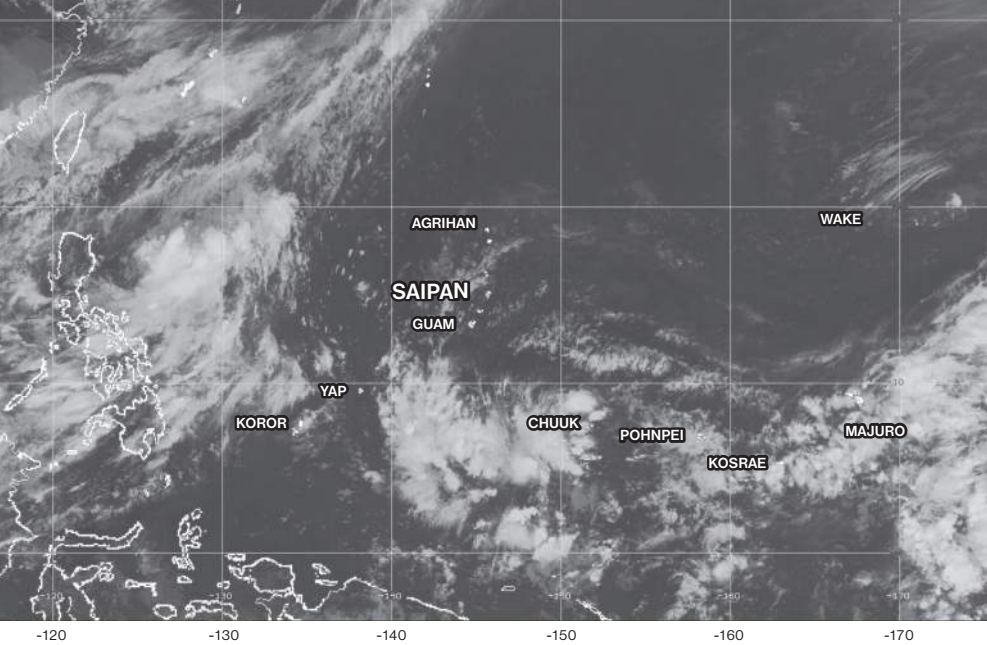
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
90°79°	90°79°	90°79°	90°79°	90°79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry trade-wind pattern is expected to continue for the next few days. The next possibility of any significant rainfall will be Thursday into the weekend. A weak disturbance is expected to move to the south of Guam, bringing increasing moisture to the region. Model guidance shows the majority of the activity should remain to the south of the islands, though there will be an increase in showers and a few thunderstorms across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
London	Showers	81° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Sunny	63° / 45°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	90° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 73°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Busan	Rain	75° / 70°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 53°	
Seoul	Cloudy	91° / 70°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	92° / 71°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82	
8:09 AM	LOW TIDE	0.95	
12:38 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.34	
7:17 PM	LOW TIDE	0.45	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:06 AM	-
Wednesday	12:36 AM	12:53 PM	-
Thursday	1:13 AM	1:41 PM	-
Friday	1:51 AM	2:31 PM	-
Saturday	2:31 AM	3:24 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

A retail rainbow: Vendors mark LGBTQ Pride on sales racks

NEW YORK (AP)—Major retailers have diversified their inventory for Pride month, selling apparel and other goods that celebrate LGBTQ culture to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

In New York City, Macy's flagship store is adorned with rainbow-colored Pride tribute windows, set in the same space as its famous Christmas displays. Times Square's digital billboards are splashed with pitches for Pride-linked clothing and cosmetics sold at Sephora, CoverGirl and Levi's stores nearby.

But this year, the truly game-changing Pride sales scene is not in cutting-edge New York.

In 25 years working for organizations devoted to LGBTQ causes, "this is absolutely the first year that I have noticed the retail celebration of Pride moving from larger coastal cities to smaller towns and cities," said Stephen Macias, the Los Angeles-based head of the Diversity & Inclusion department at the MW-WPR global publicity firm.

He was taken aback by what he saw visiting his childhood hometown, Fresno, California, in an agricultural part of the state politically distant from liberal Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"When I went home to Fresno, where I was bullied at the mall as an effeminate kid, I was looking at so many stores with rainbow flags, Pride dis-



In this Wednesday, June 19, 2019, photo, a visitor to Herald Square takes a photo with the Pride and Joy window display at the Macy's flagship store in New York. For Pride month, retailers across the country are selling goods and services celebrating LGBTQ culture.

AP

plays and same-sex families set up in the windows," Macias said. "I was shocked that in Middle America, we were being celebrated. It was no problem, with each store trying to outdo the others."

In Oklahoma City, the locally owned Red Coyote Running and Fitness displayed shoes with rainbow Pride flags planted in them. On Saturday, it sponsored an inaugural "Love Run" race, complete with rainbow medals.

The retail push in large part is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall

uprising, days of protests touched off by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969.

It took decades, but American businesses in recent years have introduced more LGBTQ-themed items, no longer considering them anathema to mass marketing. The LGBTQ presence in retail has never been as visibly mainstream as in 2019.

"A dozen years ago, the conventional wisdom among retailers was that reaching

out to the LGBTQ community means losing to the rest of consumers," Macias said. "But the retail landscape turned out to be different; the fear of backlash by supporting LGBTQ consumers never materialized in any meaningful way."

Not everyone praises the Pride merchandising, which some see as thinly disguised corporate promotion.

"Major corporations have turned LGBT struggles into marketing moments to make themselves look good," said Bill Dobbs, a longtime New

York gay activist. "The modern movement for gay rights was jump-started by Stonewall, and it's still a battle for the lives of LGBT people—not about selling trinkets and clothes with rainbow colors. They're a distraction."

Some companies participating in Pride campaigns have also been criticized for having their apparel made in countries where being gay is illegal, or where persecution is commonplace.

"Some people in these corporations may have good intentions, but it's just a mar-

keting tactic," said Terry Roethlein, a volunteer with the Reclaim Pride Coalition, which opposes major corporate sponsorship of New York's LGBTQ events.

"So many things that we sell in this country are produced in all kinds of deplorable conditions abroad," Roethlein said. "And that's just another problem with retailing pride products—part of the unscrupulous nature of these marketing efforts. We want queer liberation, not rainbow capitalism."

Many companies with Pride-branded apparel lines are also making donations to LGBTQ organizations or are giving a percentage of their sales.

H&M is putting 10% of the sales from its "Love for All" collection to the United Nations campaign against the criminalization of LGBTQ people. UGG footwear is donating 25% of its proceeds from sales of "Yeah Pride" slippers this month to benefit Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation.

Target, which is selling family-themed Pride merchandise, including toddler T-shirts that read "Love my Dads" and "Love my Moms," is donating \$100,000 to GLSEN, an organization focused on ensuring safe schools for LGBTQ students. Profits from American Apparel's Stonewall-themed T-shirts are going to an initiative that provides cosmetics to low-income transgender women of color.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US judge lets case against Manafort-linked oligarch stand

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago federal judge has refused to dismiss bribery charges against a Ukrainian oligarch who prosecutors say had business ties to President Donald Trump's ex-campaign manager, Paul Manafort. Her 39-page weekend ruling denies a motion to toss an indictment accusing Dmytro Firtash of a conspiracy to pay bribes in India to mine titanium, used in jet engines. Austrian officials arrested Firtash in 2014. If its high court rules against the onetime ally of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich at a June 25 hearing, he could be extradited in July. Firtash denies wrongdoing. He argued the U.S. has no jurisdiction over crimes in India. Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer ruled it did because any scheme would have impacted a Chicago-based com-

pany. Chicago-based Boeing has said it considered business with Firtash but never followed through. It's not accused of wrongdoing.

Clean water grants available for agriculture programs

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is again releasing up to \$500,000 in grants for agricultural programs that address water quality. The proposals are due by Aug. 1. The agency is seeking programs focused on regulatory compliance; agricultural non-point source pollution reduction; and economic and environmental viability on Vermont farms. Eligible activities include organizational development, conservation equipment maintenance and on-farm conservation practice surveys. Non-profit organizations, farm associations and businesses are eligible for the

grants. Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts says the program "helps provide partner businesses and organizations with the tools and resources they need to run conservation programs and impact change at the local level." The funding comes through the Clean Water Fund, which was created as part of Vermont's Clean Water Act.

Climate activists end their blockade of German coal mine

BERLIN (AP)—Hundreds of climate activists called an end to their protest Sunday inside one of Germany's biggest open-pit mines after police repeatedly ordered them to leave, citing life-threatening danger, and authorities pulled some protesters out. The Garzweiler lignite coal mine has been the focal point of environmental protests in Germany's Rhineland region since Friday, when 40,000 students rallied for more

government action against climate change in the nearby city of Aachen. "We wrote climate history this weekend," the activist group End of Story said as it halted the protest. "Our movement has never been so diverse and never been so determined." The long-planned protests began Friday just hours after European Union leaders failed at a summit to agree on how to make the EU carbon neutral by 2050. On Saturday, some demonstrators blocked the railroad tracks used to transport coal before others broke through a police cordon to enter the mine. Protesters and police accused each other of combative behavior in the mine and of causing injuries. Police said eight officers were injured in scuffles with protesters. Police cut the locks the protesters had used to chain themselves to the railway tracks and then carried the protesters out one by one.

US blacklists 5 Chinese groups working in supercomputing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is blacklisting five Chinese organizations involved in supercomputing with military-related applications, citing national security as justification for denying its Asian geopolitical rival access to critical U.S. technology.

The move Friday by the U.S. Commerce Department could complicate talks next week between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, aimed at de-escalating a trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies.

The five blacklisted organizations placed on the so-called Entity List includes supercomputer maker Sugon, which is heavily dependent on U.S. suppliers including chipmakers Intel, Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices.

The other four are the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute of Computing Technology and three Su-

gon affiliates. The Commerce Department called their activities "contrary to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States."

Sugon and the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute, which the U.S. said is owned by a Chinese army research institute, are involved in China's push to develop next-generation "exascale" high performance computing to assist with military modernization. The technology involved supports such military-related tasks as running nuclear simulations, calculating missile trajectories and hypersonic algorithms, said Paul Triolo, technology analyst with the global risk-assessing Eurasia Group.

"This is all about the race to exascale computing, which China has designated as a major priority," he said, adding that companies such as Sugon have received major government backing.

Nation

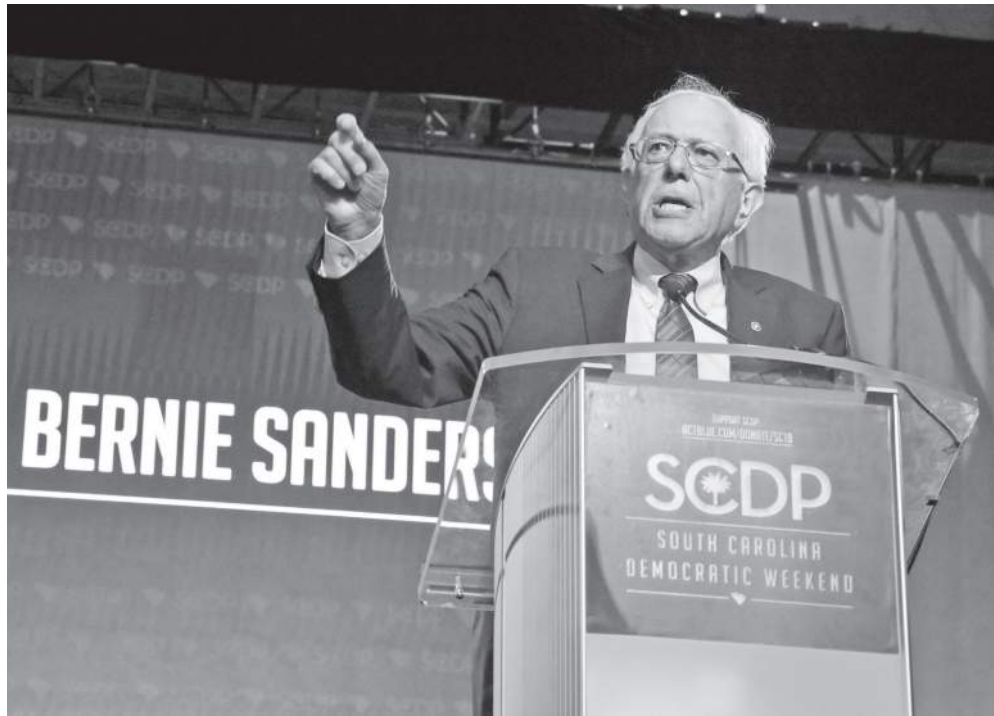
Sanders, progressives unveil bill to cancel student debt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days before the first Democratic presidential debates, Sen. Bernie Sanders and House progressives are unveiling legislation cancelling all student debt, going further than a signature proposal by Sen. Elizabeth Warren as the two jockey for support from the party's liberal base.

By canceling all student loans, Sanders says the proposal addresses an economic burden for 45 million Americans. The key difference is that Warren's plan considers the income of the borrowers, canceling \$50,000 in debt for those earning less than \$100,000 per year and affecting an estimated 42 million people in the U.S.

Questions face both candidates about how to pay for all of that plus their proposals for free tuition at public colleges and universities. But the battling ideas highlight the rivalry between senators who have made fighting for economic inequality the cornerstones of their presidential campaigns.

"In a generation hard hit by the Wall Street crash of 2008, it forgives all student debt and



Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders addresses the crowd during the South Carolina Democratic Convention on Saturday, June 22, 2019, in, S.C. AP

ends the absurdity of sentencing an entire generation to a lifetime of debt for the 'crime' of getting a college education," Sanders said in remarks prepared for delivery at a news conference Monday with the proposal's House sponsors, Reps. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., and Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash.

His bill and Warren's plan—proposed in a Medium article earlier this year—are part of their broader appeal to liberal voters with a series of progressive policy ideas on issues such as health care, technology and education. The dynamic seems certain to play out this week during

the first Democratic debates. Twenty candidates are set for the showdown, with Warren part of the lineup on Tuesday and Sanders appearing a day later. The events come as there are signs that Warren is cutting into Sanders' support from the left.

Sanders' effort at one-ups-

manship on student loans, named the College For All Act, would cancel \$1.6 trillion of debt and save the average borrower about \$3,000 a year, according to materials obtained by The Associated Press. The result would be a stimulus that allows millennials in particular to invest in homes and cars that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. It would cost \$2.2 billion and be paid for—and then some—by a series of taxes on such things as stock trades, bonds and derivatives, according to the proposal.

The universal debt relief is designed partly around the idea that it would mostly benefit Americans who can't afford college tuition without loans, according to a senior Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity because the legislation wasn't yet public.

Warren's plan, which she

has suggested in published reports will be introduced as legislation, would be paid for by imposing a 2% fee on fortunes greater than \$50 million, a wealth tax designed to target the nation's top 0.1% of households. Warren projects the levy would raise \$2.75 trillion over 10 years, enough to pay for a universal child-care plan, free tuition at public colleges and universities, and student loan debt forgiveness for an estimated 42 million Americans—with revenue left over.

Critics say top earners would find ways around such penalties. But if the free college and student debt relief advocates don't hit their revenue goals, they could simply add to the deficit—as President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have by passing more than \$1 trillion in tax cuts without paying for them.

Aerial photos help census officials pinpoint faraway people

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The U.S. Census Bureau is using new high-tech tools to help get an accurate population count next year as its faces challenges tallying people of color who live in remote places and can be wary of the federal government.

The agency is using aerial images of rural communities and hard-to-reach areas to verify addresses and determine where to send workers to ensure everyone is counted, Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said.

Satellites and planes take photos, and bureau employees compare the housing captured in the images to digital maps from the last census, in 2010. It takes a fraction of the time needed by workers in the field.

The agency has used geographic technology since 1990 but has never had access to such accurate tools from the air, said Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, head of the bureau's geography division.

That technology—known as geographic information system, or GIS—uses computers to analyze neighborhoods, land formations, rivers and other data captured by satellites or traditional mapping.

The new technology to improve the census comes amid concerns that tribal areas and communities of color may be

undercounted in the every-10-year tally that determines the amount of federal money states receive and whether they gain or lose U.S. congressional seats.

The U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether the Trump administration can add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, which opponents say would suppress the count of immigrants who fear revealing their status to federal officials.

The Census Bureau also is facing criticism for planning internet and telephone questionnaires, which advocates say would be more likely to overlook rural areas without reliable communication infrastructure.

Steven Romalewski, director of the City University of New York's Mapping Service, said the criticism is fair but credited the Census Bureau for using its geographic and aerial technology to gather needed data about the most difficult populations to count.

"The technology alone is no guarantee that you will have an accurate count," said Romalewski, who is mapping "hard to count" communities ahead of the census. "But if you leverage data with satellite imagery, you have the best information before you."

That's what census employees intend to do while avoid-

ing the political battles, Dillingham said.

"The culture of the census dictates us to be impartial," the bureau director said during a recent trip to New Mexico, which has one of the most difficult populations to accurately count.

The state has a sizable Native American population and the highest percentage of Hispanic residents in the nation. Bishop said the technology will especially help such areas that have struggled for accurate counts.

Another is Mississippi's majority-black Bolivar County, where only 59.7% of households mailed back their 2010 census questionnaire, according to CUNY's Center for Urban Research.

The national rate was 74% in 2010, according to a Census Bureau news release.

The bureau began using the new imagery technology in 2013, Bishop said. Employees have been double- and triple-checking satellite images and those captured by the Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Imagery Program during the growing seasons in the continental U.S.

Around 100 technicians are able to examine the entire nation with satellite and aerial images while sitting at their computers. They are as-

signed specific neighborhood blocks and look for growth and decline in the number of residential buildings by comparing images from 2009 to the present.

Two hours of canvassing in the field during the 2010 census now takes less than two minutes in the office, the bureau said.

"With that information, we can then decide to use our staff more efficiently" to knock on doors of homes that did not respond to online or phone questionnaires, Bishop said.

The bureau gave a demonstration of the new technology at conference early this year. Employees showed how they could analyze county subdivisions on maps by looking up a certain percentage of Spanish speakers or those making a certain amount of money.

The specific addresses pinpointed by the aerial imagery are largely kept private, but can be shared with some tribal and city governments to help create boundaries and zoning areas, Bishop said. After a certain period, the information has to be destroyed, she said.

The head of the Census Bureau came to New Mexico last month for a firsthand look at the struggle to count people who live in far-flung places where the new technology could help.

ACROSS THE NATION

1-year-old child left in SUV dies in south Texas

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—A 1-year-old child has died after being left in a parked SUV in south Texas for about five hours. Galveston police spokesman Sgt. Xavier Hancock tells the Daily News that a parent had arrived for work at a restaurant about 11 a.m. Saturday with the child in a black SUV. The parent returned to the vehicle at about 4 p.m. to find the child unresponsive. The child was pronounced dead later Saturday. Authorities did not release names of the child or the parents. The National Weather Service said temperatures reached a high of 92 degrees (33 Celsius) Saturday in Galveston, which is 53 miles (85 kilometers) southeast of Houston.

2 dead in charter bus crash in southern Colorado

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP)—A charter bus carrying 15 members of a church group ran off a highway after striking a bridge support Sunday in southern Colorado, killing two people and injuring several others, a state patrol official said. The bus was carrying a charter group from a church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was traveling southbound on Interstate 25 when it struck the bridge structure and veered off the highway about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Pueblo, state Patrol Cpl. Ivan Alvarado said. The driver may have had an unspecified medical issue that contributed to the crash, Alvarado said. The driver, whose identity wasn't released, was ejected from the bus and died, he said. The identity of the other person who died wasn't immediately known. Thirteen other people sustained injuries varying from minor to critical, the state patrol said. The bus was returning to New Mexico from a convention in Denver, The Pueblo Chieftain reported, citing Colorado State Police officials.

California man jumps into river to elude homeowner, police

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Officials say a California man jumped into a river to elude a homeowner and police following a report of a burglary. The Sacramento Bee reports that 40-year-old Michael Hernandez leapt into the St. John's River in Visalia following pursuit by a homeowner Saturday. Hernandez was arrested on suspicion of burglary, resisting arrest, methamphetamine possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Police in the city 211 miles (340 kilometers) south of Sacramento responded to a 3 p.m. report of a resident interrupting a burglar before chasing the man's vehicle in his own car. Authorities searched for three hours before Hernandez was spotted. Police say Hernandez jumped back into the river but the swift current forced him to shore, where he struggled with officers and a police dog in knee-deep water.

Asia

Death toll from building collapse in Cambodia rises to 24

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (AP)—Rescuers on Monday were continuing to search the rubble of a building that collapsed while under construction in a Cambodia beach town, killing at least 25 workers as they slept in the unfinished condominium that was doubling as their housing.

The seven-story building collapsed early Saturday on top of the dozens of construction workers who were sleeping on the second floor. The condominium was being built in the thriving seaside resort town of Sihanoukville, which has several such Chinese-funded projects.

The Chinese Embassy expressed its condolences and said it was mobilizing Chinese assistance for the rescue.

Preah Sihanouk provincial authorities said rescuers digging through the twisted metal and concrete rubble found five bodies overnight and another Monday morning, raising the toll to 25. Up to 75% of the debris has been removed from the site as of Monday morning.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen visited the site late Sunday. Pictures released by the provincial authorities showed him in front of the



collapsed building talking to several government ministers involved in the rescue.

At least 24 workers were injured in the collapse. One

of them, Nhor Chandeun, said he and his wife were sleeping when they heard a loud noise and felt the building vibrate then begin falling down. They

were trapped for 12 hours before rescuers found them.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training said 30

^{AP}
In this Sunday, June 23, 2019, photo provided by Preah Sihanouk provincial authorities, rescuers enter a victim body onto an ambulance at a site of a collapse in Preah Sihanouk province, Cambodia.

workers were at the site when the building collapsed, but Nhor Chandeun said there were about 55 to 60 people inside the building.

Provincial authorities said in a statement that four Chinese nationals involved in the construction have been detained while the collapse is investigated.

The Chinese Embassy “supports a thorough investigation of the accident and necessary measures by competent Cambodian authority in accordance with the law,” the embassy said in a statement early Monday.

It said the embassy was greatly saddened by the collapse and had reached out to Chinese enterprises in Cambodia to mobilize personnel as well as heavy equipment like excavators to clear the rubble.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Huge tent collapses at Indian ceremony, 14 reported dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his concern over the collapse of a large tent at a religious ceremony that news reports said killed at least 14 people Sunday. Modi said in a tweet on his office’s official account that the incident in Rajasthan state was “unfortunate. He said his thoughts “were with the bereaved families” and he wished the injured a quick recovery. The Press Trust of India agency reported at least 14 people died and 50 others were wounded when the tent collapsed during a Hindu ceremony. Western Rajasthan state chief minister Ashok Gehlot said a strong storm caused the collapse of the tent in a village in Barmer. The area is 800 kilometers (497 miles) west of New Delhi, India’s capital. Gehlot in a tweet said that he ordered an investigation into the incident, while relief and rescue work was being carried out by the local administration. The ceremony, Ram Katha, is popular among Hindu villagers as it narrates glory of the Hindu religion from the religious epic Ramayana.

Train crash kills 4, injures at least 65 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Five coaches on a Bangladesh express train veered off a railway bridge in northeastern Bangladesh, killing at least four people and injuring 65, officials said Monday, and a search of the wreckage for any people trapped was continuing. Local chief government administrator Tofayel Ahmed said the Upaban Express train was heading for the capital, Dhaka, when the crash occurred around

midnight at Kulaura in Moulvibazar district on Sunday. He said the rail bridge broke down when the train was crossing it. The cause of the breakdown wasn’t known immediately. Ahmed said at least 15 passengers were in critical condition. The bodies of three women and a child were kept in a local health complex, he said. Local TV stations said more than 100 people were injured. Another official Mesbah Uddin Ahmed said engineers and workers were working to retrieve the coaches while the search for any people trapped under the wreckage was continuing. The train service between the northeastern region and the rest of the country was halted.

Strong quake recorded in Indonesia’s Banda Sea, no tsunami

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake struck Monday in Indonesia’s Banda Sea, but authorities said there is no tsunami threat. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.3 quake was centered 208 kilometers (129 miles) below the earth’s surface. It was felt in parts of Indonesia and in East Timor’s capital Dili but there were no reports of damage. Indonesia’s geophysics agency said the deep quake didn’t cause a tsunami. The Banda Sea quake was recorded minutes after a 6.1 tremor in a thinly populated area 233 kilometers (144 miles) west of Papua province’s Abepura town, at a depth of 20 kilometers (12 miles). Rahmat Triyono, Indonesia’s head of earthquake and tsunami center, said the Papua quake was followed by several smaller aftershocks, but there is no immediate report of major damage or injuries.

Abandoned tents, human waste piling up on Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—After every party it’s time to clean up and Mount Everest is no different. The record number of climbers crowding the world’s highest mountain this season has left a government cleanup crew grappling with how to clear away everything from abandoned tents to human waste that threatens drinking water.

Budget expedition companies charge as little as \$30,000 per climber, cutting costs including waste removal. Everest has so much garbage—depleted oxygen cylinders, food packaging, rope—that climbers use the trash as a kind of signpost. But this year’s haul from an estimated 700 climbers, guides and porters on the mountain has been a shock to the ethnic Sherpas who worked on the government’s cleanup drive this spring.

Moreover, the tents are littering South Col, or Camp 4, which, at 8,000 meters (26,240 feet) is the highest campsite on Everest, just below the summit. The high winds at that elevation have scattered the tents and trash everywhere.

“The altitude, oxygen levels, dangerously icy and slippery slopes, and bad weather of South Col make it very difficult to bring such big things as tents down,” said Dawa Steven

Sherpa, who led an independent cleanup last month and has been a leading figure in the campaign to clean Mount Everest for the past 12 years.

Exhausted climbers struggling to breathe and battling nausea leave heavy tents behind rather than attempt to carry them down. Sherpa said the logos on the ice-embedded tents that identify the expedition companies were deliberately ripped out so the culprits could evade detection.

“It took us an hour to dig out just one tent out of the frozen ice and bring it down,” said Sherpa. His expeditions have alone brought down some 20,000 kilograms (44,000 pounds) of garbage since 2008.

Sherpa estimated 30 tents had been left on South Col, and as much as 5,000 kilograms (11,000 pounds) of trash. Bringing it down is a herculean task when any misstep at such altitudes could be fatal.

It is impossible to know exactly how much litter is spread across Everest because it only becomes visible when the snow melts. At Camp 2, two levels higher than Base Camp, the campaigners believe that around 8,000 kilograms (17,637 pounds) of human excrement were left during this year’s climbing season alone.

Some climbers do not use

makeshift toilets, instead digging a hole in the snow, letting the waste fall into small crevasses. However, rising temperatures have thinned the glacier, leaving fewer and smaller crevasses. The overflowing waste then spills downhill toward Base Camp and even communities below the mountain.

People living at the Base Camp use melted snow for drinking water that climbers’ toilets threaten to contaminate.

“During our expedition to Camp 2, eight of our 10 Sherpas got stomach illness from bad water at Camp 2,” said John All, a professor of environmental science at Western Washington University who visited Everest on a research expedition.

For the Nepalese who regard the mountain as “Sagarmatha,” or Mother of the World, littering amounts to desecration. Climber Nima Doma, who returned recently from a successful ascent, gets angry thinking that the sacred mountain is being turned into a garbage dump.

“Everest is our god and it was very sad to see our god so dirty. How can people just toss their trash on such a sacred place?” she said.

The trash is creating danger for future climbers and spurring calls for action now.

World

Opposition win in Istanbul a blow to Turkey's Erdogan

ISTANBUL (AP)—The opposition candidate for mayor of Istanbul celebrated a landmark win Sunday in a closely watched repeat election that ended weeks of political tension and broke the long hold President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party had on leading Turkey's largest city.

"Thank you, Istanbul," Ekrem Imamoglu, 49, said to the tens of thousands of people who gathered to mark his victory after unofficial results

showed he won a clear majority of the vote.

The governing party's candidate, former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, conceded moments after returns showed him trailing well behind Imamoglu, 54% to 45%. Imamoglu increased his lead from a March mayoral election by hundreds of thousands of votes.

Erdogan congratulated Imamoglu in a tweet. Analysts noted the president, who is

grappling with an economic downturn and several international crises, could limit the mayor's power or undermine Imamoglu's authority in other ways.

Imamoglu narrowly won an earlier mayoral election on March 31, but Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, AKP, challenged the vote over alleged irregularities. He spent 18 days in office before Turkey's electoral board annulled the results after weeks of par-

tial recounts.

The voided vote raised concerns domestically and abroad about the state of Turkish democracy and whether Erdogan's party would accept any electoral loss. AKP has governed Turkey since 2002.

"You have protected the reputation of democracy in Turkey with the whole world watching," Imamoglu, his voice hoarse after weeks of campaigning, told supporters.

Jubilant supporters chanted

"Mayor again! Mayor again!" Others hung out of cars, blaring horns and waving red-and-white Turkish flags.

Erdogan campaigned hard for Yildirim in Istanbul, where the president started his political career as mayor in 1994. Lisel Hintz, an assistant international relations professor at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, said Imamoglu withstood a divisive campaign and prevailed with a positive message.

The significance of his win "cannot be understated," Hintz said.

"We now have to wait and see whether Imamoglu's tenure as mayor will be interfered with in any way, whether by cutting off funding and hampering his office's ability to provide services or by removing him under some legal pretext," Hintz said.

AKP also lost control of the capital city of Ankara in Turkey's March local elections,

which were held as the country battled high inflation and two credit rating downgrades in the past year.

Melihat Ugen said she switched her vote to the opposition because she could not afford to cover basic expenses.

"I've certainly never voted left before," she said. "But I'm 62, and a bag of onions costs too much. Everything is imported and we can't afford it."

Istanbul, a city of more than 15 million, draws millions of tourists each year and is Turkey's commercial and cultural hub. Straddling Europe and Asia, Istanbul accounted for 31% of Turkey's GDP in 2017.

Erdogan has previously signaled an unwillingness to work with an opposition mayor, saying his party controls 25 of Istanbul's 39 districts and a majority in the municipal assembly. Imamoglu will have to work with those officeholders to govern Istanbul, and he promised to do so Sunday.



A supporter of Ekrem Imamoglu, the candidate of Turkey's secular opposition Republican People's Party, CHP, holds a poster with modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as she celebrates in central Istanbul, late Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Yemeni rebels strike Saudi airport ahead of US-Saudi talks

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—One person was killed and seven others were wounded in an attack by Iranian-allied Yemeni rebels on an airport in Saudi Arabia Sunday evening, the Saudi military said, as the U.S. secretary of state was on his way to the country for talks on Iran.

Regional tensions have flared in recent days. The U.S. abruptly called off military strikes against Iran in response to the shooting down of an unmanned American surveillance drone on Thursday.

The Trump administration has combined a "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions with a buildup of American forces in the region following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. A new set of U.S. sanctions on Iran are expected to be announced Monday.

The Sunday attack by the Yemeni rebels, known as

Houthis, targeted the Saudi airport in Abha. Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthis in Yemen for more than four years.

A Houthi spokesman, Yahia al-Sarie, said earlier Sunday the rebels had launched drones targeting Saudi airports in the southern cities of Abha and Jizan.

Saudi Arabia's military spokesman Col. Turki al-Maliki did not say what type of weapon was used in Sunday's attack, which took place shortly after 9 p.m. local time. The Saudi Press Agency reported that a Syrian resident of Saudi Arabia had been killed, but did not identify the nationalities of those wounded.

It was the second attack in less than two weeks on Abha's airport. The Houthis launched a cruise missile at the airport on June 12, wounding 26 passengers inside. The Iranian-backed Houthis also claimed responsibility for bomb-laden drone strikes that targeted a

key Saudi oil pipeline in recent weeks.

Also Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was traveling to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for talks on Iran. His meetings in Saudi Arabia will be in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, about 315 miles (505 kilometers) north of where the Saudi airport was struck.

Speaking to reporters before flying out, he said he'll be talking to the two U.S. allies "about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned" and how to build a global coalition to "push back against the world's largest state sponsor of terror."

At the same time, Pompeo reiterated that the U.S. was prepared to negotiate with Iran to ease tensions.

"We're prepared to negotiate with no preconditions. They know precisely how to find us," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. national

security adviser John Bolton was in Jerusalem on Sunday, where he said Iran should not "mistake U.S. prudence and discretion for weakness." President Donald Trump has said he backed away from planned strikes after learning 150 people would be killed.

Bolton's tough message seemed to be aimed not only at Tehran, but also at reassuring key U.S. allies that the White House remains committed to maintaining pressure on Iran. Israel, along with Arab countries in the Gulf, considers Iran to be their greatest threat, and Trump's last-minute about face appears to have raised questions about U.S. willingness to use force against the Islamic Republic.

On Sunday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani blamed the United States' "interventionist military presence" for fanning the flames. He was quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

Ethiopia says military chief killed, regional coup failed

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Ethiopia's military chief was shot to death by his bodyguard amid a failed coup attempt against a regional government north of the capital, Addis Ababa, the prime minister said Sunday.

The abortive coup Saturday in the Amhara region was led by a high-ranking military officer and others in the armed forces, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who addressed the nation on state TV at 2 a.m. while wearing fatigues.

The soldiers attacked a building where a meeting of regional officials was taking place, said Nigussu Tilahun, a spokesman for the prime minister. The regional governor and an adviser were killed, while the attorney general was wounded, he said.

Not long after afterward, army chief Gen. Seare Mekonnen who assassinated at his home in Addis Ababa, and a retired army general visiting him was also killed, the spokesman said.

"There is a link between the two attacks," Nigussu said without elaborating.

The attack in Bahir Dar, the capital of Amhara, was led by a renegade brigadier who had recently been pardoned by the prime minister after being jailed by the previous government, authorities said. Most of the perpetrators were captured, and

others were being hunted down, the spokesman said.

The brigadier remained at large, according to two officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Addis Ababa was peaceful on Sunday as soldiers stood guard in Meskel Square and set up roadblocks throughout the city. Ethiopia's internet appeared to be shut down.

The attempted coup was the latest challenge to Abiy, who was elected last year.

The 42-year-old Abiy has captured the imagination of many with his political and economic reforms, including the surprise acceptance of a peace agreement with Eritrea, the opening of major state-owned sectors to private investment and the release of thousands of prisoners, including opposition figures once sentenced to death.

Last June, a grenade meant for Abiy wounded many people at a big rally. Nine police officials were arrested, state media reported. In October, rebellious soldiers protested over pay and invaded Abiy's office, but the prime minister was able to defuse the situation.

Ethiopia is a key regional ally of the U.S. in the restive Horn of Africa region.

Focus

AP
A Lego model of the Apollo 11 lunar lander is displayed in the company's store in New York on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. Hundreds of millions of people were riveted when Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. Naturally, marketers jumped at the chance to sell products from cars and televisions, to cereal and a once-obscure powdered drink called Tang. They are at it again in 2019, as the 50th anniversary of the giant leap for mankind approaches.

50 years later, the moon is still great for business

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Fifty years after humans first visited, businesses are still trying to make a buck off the moon.

Hundreds of millions of people were riveted when Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. Naturally, marketers jumped at the chance to sell products from cars and televisions, to cereal and a once-obscure powdered drink called Tang.

They are at it again in 2019, as the 50th anniversary of the giant leap for mankind approaches.

There's the cosmically priced \$34,600 limited edition Omega Speedmaster, a tribute to the watch that Buzz Aldrin wore to the moon. And the more down-to-Earth Budweiser Discovery Reserve, which revives a recipe from the 1960s and features 11 symbolic stars in the packaging.

There's the playful NASA Apollo 11 lunar lander set from Lego. And Nabisco's indulgent purple Marshmallow Moon Oreo cookies. And who doesn't need "one small step" t-shirts, Saturn V crew socks or an Apollo 11 travel tumbler?

But seriously, some brands take genuine pride at having been part of the first moon landing.

Omega Speedmaster watches have been an icon of space travel since

NASA chose them for its manned missions in 1965 after other watches failed tests. In 1970, the crew of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission used a Speedmaster to time a 14-second engine burn to align themselves for re-entry to Earth.

"It continues to be an important tool to have. You have to look only to the Apollo 13 mission," said James Ragan, a retired NASA aerospace engineer who tested the watches in the 1960s.

Omega's gold Speedmaster is a version of the watches the company presented to astronauts at a gala dinner in 1969. A relatively more modest \$9,650 stainless steel timepiece features a laser-engraved image of Aldrin descending from the lunar lander.

Then, there are the anti-gravity Fisher Space Pens, developed specially for the Apollo missions. For luxury space enthusiasts, Fisher Space Pen Co. has a \$700 limited edition pen with authenticated materials from the Apollo 11 space craft.

Back in 1969, both Omega and Fisher Space Pen Co. were quick to promote their Apollo 11 connections with media and advertising campaigns, as were NASA contractors like Boeing and General Electric.

Stouffer's made sure consumers knew it provided food for Apollo 11 astronauts once they were back on Earth, launching the ad campaign "Everybody who's been to the moon is eating Stouffer's." Fifty years later,

the Nestle-owned brand is celebrating with a media campaign to share some of the recipes from 1969.

But brands with no direct Apollo connections were not about to sit out an event that nearly every U.S. household with a television watched.

In 1969, Zippo released a lighter saluting the Apollo 11 mission and its astronauts. A half-century later, Zippo has sold out of the 14,000 limited edition lighters released in tribute to the anniversary, priced at \$100 each.

Krispy Kreme, which says it served doughnuts to witnesses at the Apollo 11 launch, conjured up a new treat — filling its classic glazed doughnuts with cream — in honor of the anniversary.

If many of the tributes have a vintage feel, it might be because public interest in space exploration has ebbed and flowed over the years, with no single event capturing the global euphoria of the first moon landing, and the Apollo program ending in 1972.

"Since 1972, human space travel has been dead boring. We've gone around and around and around the Earth a whole bunch of times, and that is not interesting to people," said David Meerman Scott, a marketing strategist and co-author of the book "Marketing the Moon," which chron-



AP
This July 20, 1969 photo made available by NASA shows pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin in the Apollo 11 Lunar Module. For the 50th anniversary of the landing, Omega issued a limited edition Speedmaster watch, a tribute to the one that Aldrin wore to the moon.

icles the public relations efforts that went into the Apollo 11 mission.

Still, Scott said the 50th anniversary comes amid renewed interest, with NASA's plans to send astronauts back to the moon by 2024 and to Mars in the 2030s.

Indeed, Lego conceived its lunar lander as a grown-up display set, part of its Creator Expert series aimed at adults. For kids, born to parents who themselves have never known a world without space travel, the Danish toy company is releasing six new Lego City Mars exploration sets, designed in collaboration with NASA with futuristic rockets that would take humans to the red planet.

"It's about giving kids something aspirational, where they can see themselves, versus trying to project them into a historical moment," said Michael McNally, senior director of brand relations at Lego.

Budweiser, similarly, has declared

its ambition to be the first beer on Mars, participating in barley-growing experiments on the International Space Station. Still, the Anheuser-Busch brand saw marketing potential in evoking the patriotism that the Apollo 11 mission stirred in Americans during politically polarized times.

"Beer at its core is a very democratic drink. It brings people together," said Ricardo Marques, vice president of marketing at Anheuser-Busch. "We like in particular to remind people of everything that is good and everything we shouldn't forget."

After all, watching the first moon landing was a personal experience for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

That was thanks to TV — a connection Samsung has seized for its media campaign promoting its QLED 8K TV, tied to CNN's Apollo 11 documentary.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

A beastly pickup truck that's built to be battered

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

With its 2020 Jeep Gladiator, Fiat Chrysler has delivered what amounts to a four-door Jeep Wrangler with a pickup truck stuck on its hind end.

It's a sort of Jeep/truck hybrid, an off-road-ready puddle jumper that can carry a lot more cargo than the standard SUV.

The corporate thinking behind this mashup is clear: The Jeep division outsells all other FCA brands, and the Wrangler alone accounts for a quarter of all Jeep sales. America loves Jeeps and America loves trucks. So, why not a Wrangler for truck buyers — especially because, according to numbers compiled by Kelley Blue Book, FCA's Ram truck division is the only one showing improved year-to-date sales for 2019?

What's less clear is who will buy it.

This is not a luxury SUV. Distinctly mechanical and analog — even the high-end Rubicon version has manually adjusted seats — the Gladiator is built for rugged treatment. The top, the doors and even the windshield can all be removed for extra rugged off-roading. The interior is pure Wrangler — the dash looks identical to the one found in the Wrangler Rubicon or Sahara trims — and while comfortable is designed to get dirty and clean up easily.

Jeep has thrown a lot into this beast. Under the hood is FCA's 3.6-liter V-6 engine, which pumps out 285 horsepower and 260 pound-feet of torque. The engine is mated to

an eight-speed manual transmission — a six-speed manual is also available — and connected to a four-wheel-drive system that is among the best in the business.

Standard equipment on the Rubicon trim — the loaded version of four Gladiator models, all of which are four-wheel-drive trucks powered by the 3.6-liter V-6 that's also found in the Wranglers — are off-road essentials such as multiple skid plates, massive Fox shock absorbers, heavy-duty front and rear axles with locking differentials, front and rear tow hooks, rock rails and huge all-terrain tires. (A full-size spare is tucked under the pickup bed.)

Added to the Gladiator I borrowed were extras such as front and rear "trail cams" for up-close views of the terrain,

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Jeep Gladiator 4x4

■ **Times' take:** A convertible pickup truck Jeep?

■ **Highs:** Big, burly and very capable

■ **Lows:** Big, burly and a bit clumsy

■ **Vehicle type:** Four-door, five-passenger pickup truck

■ **Base price:** \$35,040

■ **Price as tested:** \$57,230

■ **Powertrain:** 3.6-liter V-6 gasoline engine

■ **Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic, four-wheel drive

■ **Horsepower:** 285

■ **Torque:** 260 pound-feet

■ **Estimated fuel economy rating:** 19 miles per gallon city / 22 highway / 17 combined



2020 Jeep AE Gladiator Overland.

FCA's extra beefy Rock-Trac 4x4 system, a trailer hitch and tow package that gives the Gladiator a 7,650-pound towing capacity (compared with a mere 2,000 pounds on the Wrangler), upgraded lighting, heated leather seating and a batch of safety features such as adaptive cruise control with forward-collision warning and emergency brake assist.

Determined to put the beast through its paces, I set off for the Rowher Flat off-highway vehicle park near Santa Clarita — the closest place I know with enough really rugged off-road terrain to test the Gladiator's abilities.

I found out several things right away. The handsome black canvas Gladiator roof, which when removed makes this truck a convertible, soaks up and retains a lot of heat. In the four-hour voyage to Row-

her and back, it never stopped radiating heat into the cab.

Second, I learned that driving at higher speeds with the soft top is noisy, rendering the truck's otherwise fine audio system moot. (A hard-top roof is available as an option.)

Third, I found that the vehicle's girth, and its oversized dirt tires, weren't much fun on the freeway.

But then I hit the dirt. Slipping the transmission into 4x4 mode, I ran the Gladiator at fairly high speeds over the nasty road from Sierra Highway into the off-highway vehicle park, going 30 miles per hour on sections that couldn't be done over 5 mph in a passenger car, and going 5 mph on sections that couldn't be done in a passenger car at all.

The big tires and the Fox 2.0 Performance shocks ate up the washboard and made mince

of the ruts, spitting rocks and gravel and laughing at the sandy parts.

Like the Timex watch of old, Jeeps are designed to take a licking and keep on ticking. And while I didn't thrash the Gladiator entirely, I put it through its paces and found it completely unperturbed.

Sliding through some loose stuff on a wide sweeping turn, I actually laughed out loud.

But this was work, so I got serious, and soon had the Gladiator on a very steep "black diamond" hill climb pocked with potholes and sections of sand and rock. I put the transmission into the lowest gear, and let the truck do its job. The Gladiator crested without spinning the wheels a bit — and without requiring me to lower the air pressure in the tires to maximize traction.

Coming down was terrify-

ing, but the exercise helped answer the second part of that question. This is what the Gladiator is for, serious off-roading while carrying cargo. I could easily imagine strapping a couple of dirt bikes into the bed and hitting the back country without any worry about road conditions.

That brings us back to the question: Who's it for?

A lot of people who don't need Wranglers, and don't use them as their makers intended, absolutely love their Wranglers. It's a lifestyle thing. For folks like that, the Gladiator might be impractical. Though the new vehicle is the same width and almost the same height as the non-pickup truck models, it's almost 3 feet longer than the longest Wrangler, and has 19 inches more wheelbase length. That means the Gladiator is somewhat unwieldy for parking and maneuvering in tight spaces.

Though it's comfortable enough for the front-seat passengers, full-size adults may have difficulty finding room for their legs in the back — though, in fairness, the rear-leg room is a bit greater in the Gladiator than in the Wrangler.

It's heavy, too, at just over 5,000 pounds, and gets terrible gas mileage, 22 mpg on the highway. Then there's the MSRP. The entry-level Gladiator starts at \$35,040 — \$7,000 more than the equivalent Wrangler. The model I drove retails for \$57,230, before tax and license. That may feel like a lot for a Jeep, but it's not a lot for a pickup truck, especially not one this capable.

Why you shouldn't top off your tank

Q: My 2005 Dodge V-6 Caravan (106,000 miles) suddenly refused gas with the pump constantly kicking off, as if full. Checking the internet, I found the problem was a carbon pollution canister above the gas tank. Replacement cost was around \$800-\$1,000. One mechanic told me to keep the tank at a quarter-full for a month. I did that, and the problem resolved itself about 2,000 miles later.

I'm still pumping with no problem. Can this problem actually resolve itself?

A: The fuel emissions canister is filled with charcoal, which traps and stores fuel vapors to keep them from escaping into the air while the car is parked. When you start the engine, a valve opens to allow those vapors to get sucked into the engine emptying the canister, readying it for the next time.

If you keep pumping gas once the nozzle clicks off, you may be forcing liquid into the canister. After a while, as it vaporizes, the charcoal dries out, but not always. A warning to all drivers: Do not top off your tank.

Q: What happens when I take my foot off the accelerator and just coast? Is any gas being used? Because my cars slow down so gradually there must be very little mechanical friction. Do the pistons ride up and down on a film of oil or is there actual metal to metal contact? Transmission informa-

tion would be interesting too.

A: Fuel usage depends on several factors. When you lift briefly, the fuel injectors continue to pulse. But at a predetermined engine speed (usually around 1,000-1,500 rpm) the fuel injection shuts off until the engine speed drops or you step back on the gas. If your car has an instantaneous fuel economy display, you may see it climb up to 99 mpg during a long coast.

During this time, the engine is still turning, and hence so is the oil pump. No metal to metal contact. Ditto for the transmission.

Q: The windshield in our new car displays both the speed we're doing and also the speed limit. What transmits the speed limit information? Are there sensors built into the road or what?

A: You can thank the GPS system for tracking your speed and reporting the posted speed limit. You may notice that the information goes away when you are going through a tunnel.

Q: My car is a 2010 Infiniti QX-56. While I have replaced the tires, I have never touched the spare. Should I consider replacing the spare when I get new tires this winter, or could I buy only three new tires and use the spare as a fourth? My concern is the age of the tire.

A: When you replace tires, you want them to all be the same size and age. Leave the spare alone, but check its pressure once in a while so that it is not flat if you need to use it. Although it may have

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



some age on it, the spare will likely get you to a service facility.

Q: I have a 2012 Buick Verano with 21,000 miles. The oil is changed once a year. Tires are rotated every two years. I needed a new battery this winter. Other than the battery and tire rotation, I have spent nothing on this car, as it came with free lifetime oil changes. The nine-year anniversary is coming up soon. What should be done as far as preventive maintenance is concerned?

A: Just keep on doing what you have been doing. Well, maybe you could get a bottle of Champagne and a birthday cake to celebrate.

Life & Style

innovative takes on the martini

By LOUISE DIXON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—The martini's hey-day began almost a century ago, but today's bartenders have some innovative takes on the classic cocktail.

"People have become much more educated in what they're drinking" and don't just go for the "obvious choices," says Anna Sebastian, bar manager at the Artesian bar at the Langham, in London.

First, the question every martini drinker wants to know: Shaken or stirred?

According to Joe McCanta of Grey Goose Vodka, if you're going to drink your martini fast like James Bond, then have it shaken.

"When you shake a martini, all the ice is moving around and that flakes off into little ice kind of flakes, and that makes the drink super-

cold immediately afterward," he says.

But as the drink sits, all those little bits of ice dilute faster and your drink gets warm faster. So if you want to savor your drink, he says, "a stirred martini cocktail will stay much colder, much longer."

We took a recent tour of five London bars to see what's new in martinis:

SCARFES BAR AT ROSEWOOD

At the elegant Scarfes bar at Rosewood, a hotel in Holborn, director of bars Martin Siska prepares their Petit DJ Ne Martini, a fun take on the morning-after-the-night-before, complete with a toasted brioche bun on top. "The whole idea behind the drink is we try to use all ingredients which you might have for your breakfast, like cereals, orange, milk, chocolate — so it is sort of a funky style and it is very enjoyable and easy to drink," he says.

ARTESIAN AT THE LANGHAM

Sebastian showed The Associated Press

her twist on the classic martini. She calls it the Fig Reviver, and it's got a woody flavor from whiskey. Garnish is a mini fig leaf and a spray of fig water.

LIBRARY BAR AT THE NED

In the Library Bar at the private member's club The Ned, bar manager Anthony Callegari wheels out a trolley to add drama when serving his Star of Bombay martini.

"It brings a completely different experience to the bar. It is more of a bespoke service, so we come to the table and literally tailor the martini to you," he says. "We ask you what gin you like, what vodka you like, what vermouth you like and what garnish. It could be lime, lemon or an orange, and then it is up to you. It is like making a perfume from scratch."

GIBSON

At the intimate drinking den The

Gibson in East London, head bartender Martina Breznanova gets out her blowtorch to show off the Aged Gibson martini, matured in balsamic vinegar barrels.

"We serve it with aged balsamic onions as well," she says. "These are apple cider balsamic onions which are roasted, and there's a dash of truffle oil on the top. And we also serve it with shaved parmesan cheese by the side, just to complement the flavor and wash out the smell of the alcohol afterward."

COUPETTE

Finally, we go to the French-themed cocktail lounge Coupette, which boasts a bar made entirely of old French centime coins. Bartender Patrick Kelleher prepares a sparkling martini with champagne liqueur. He uses vodka as a base, then adds some sugar.

"We cook it overnight in a water bath, and then we add it to the drink," he says. "So in that case, you've got the champagne in two different ways into the drink. So you have as much flavor as possible."

Michael Jackson's popularity endures, even after new scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The documentary “Leaving Neverland” presented a disturbing depiction of Michael Jackson as a child molester, but the initial wave of negative publicity hasn’t greatly diminished the King of Pop’s image or the enduring popularity of his music.

Many believe Jackson’s musical legacy is still going strong as Tuesday’s 10th anniversary of his death approaches. Backlash to the documentary that aired in March on HBO and Britain’s Channel 4 prompted radio stations in Canada to stop playing his music and the producers of “The Simpsons” to remove an episode that featured Jackson’s voice.

But that’s been the most visible extent of the backlash.

There’s been no rescinding honors like has happened to Bill Cosby and Harvey Weinstein, or mass movements to stop playing Jackson’s music, as R&B singer R. Kelly has faced.

Jackson’s massively popular “Thriller” album and the theatrical version of its music video still reside in the Library

of Congress’ National Recording Registry. His music is still featured in commercials and is a part of a Cirque Du Soleil show in Las Vegas.

Museums in Detroit and Tennessee keep images and artifacts of Jackson on display, and his memorabilia continues to sell.

“He still commands prices compared to most any other celebrity,” said Darren Julien, president and CEO of the Culver City, California-based Julien’s Auctions. He said his auction house has sold around \$15 million of the superstar singer’s property including his white glove that went for \$480,000 in 2009 and a jacket, which was recently bought for \$75,000.

Julien said Russia, Asia, Middle East, Canada and America are some of the key markets where buyers are willing to spend money on Jackson’s merchandise.

“He’s the only celebrity where we would have lines of people to get in whenever we had stuff of his to auction,” he continued. “There’s only one person that compares to Mari-



lyn Monroe in collectability, and that is Michael Jackson.”

Billboard senior editor Gail Mitchell isn’t surprised by support for Jackson, who she has met before. For a recent story, the veteran music journalist said she and a colleague

interviewed about 30 music executives who believe the singer’s legacy could withstand the “Leaving Neverland” controversy.

“Some saw the film, others didn’t want to,” she said. “Many said that (Jackson) is

^{AP}
In this Nov. 7, 2001 file photo, Michael Jackson waves to crowds gathered to see him at his first ever in-store appearance to celebrate his new album “Invincible” in New York.

not here to defend himself the way R. Kelly is here. ... The jury is always probably going to be out. But all of the execs said his legacy will be fine.”

Mitchell recently attended Janet Jackson’s residency performance in Las Vegas where the singer played several of her brother’s songs that had “people dancing and buzzin’” as the “crowd went wild” during classic songs from The Jackson 5, which she called “one of the highlights of show.”

“There was an aura about him,” Mitchell said of Jackson. “He had an energy in terms of his talent and the dancing, and I still think that aura still exists to a point. I know it’s been tar-

nished, but I think overall that there is no denying what he brought to the table.”

Jackson died at the age of 50 from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol on June 25, 2009. In an instant, Jackson’s popularity surged after years of being tarnished by sexual abuse allegations and a 2005 child molestation trial, which ended with his acquittal. After Jackson’s death, the criminal case nearly became an afterthought until “Leaving Neverland” was released.

The documentary focused on two men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who denied Jackson abused them while the singer was still alive. Both have said having their own children forced them to face the truth.

Jackson acknowledged befriending numerous children, including some he invited into his bed, but denied he molested any of them.

Steamy romance novelist Judith Krantz dies at 91

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Writer Judith Krantz, whose million-selling novels such as “Scruples” and “Princess Daisy” engrossed readers worldwide with their steamy tales of the rich and beautiful, died Saturday at her Bel-Air home. She was 91.

Krantz’s son Tony Krantz, a TV executive, confirmed her death by natural causes on Sunday afternoon. He said he’d hoped to re-create the “Scruples” miniseries before her she died but it is still in the works.

“She had this rare combination of commercial and



Krantz

creative,” he said.

Krantz wrote for Cosmopolitan and Ladies Home Journal magazines before discovering, at age 50, the talent for fiction that made her rich and famous like the characters she created.

Her first novel—“Scruples” in 1978—became a best-seller, as did the nine that followed. Krantz’s books have been translated into 52 languages and sold more than 85 million copies worldwide. They inspired a series of hit miniseries with the help of her husband, film and television producer Steve Krantz.

Bible underscores Lincoln's belief he was to end slavery

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP)—

A Bible given to Abraham Lincoln in the final months of the Civil War ties together the 16th president’s budding views on spirituality and his belief that God was calling him to end slavery as well as his widow’s labors to solidify his religious standing, historians say.

The King James Bible was eventually given by Mary Lincoln to Noyes W. Miner, a beloved Springfield neighbor and a Baptist minister whose descendants donated it to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, which unveiled it to the pub-

lic on Thursday.

The 18-pound (8-kilogram) volume has a cover of hand-tooled leather and gilt lettering, and is inscribed to the president from “the Ladies of the Citizens Volunteer Hospital of Philadelphia.” Historians believe Lincoln received it on June 16, 1864, the day he visited the city for a fundraiser for the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a private agency that raised money and recruited volunteers to care for the Civil War’s sick and wounded. Lincoln had donated dozens of autographed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation to the cause.

NEW YORK (AP)—“Toy Story 4” brought the box office to life with a \$118 million opening weekend after a three-week slump of underperforming sequels, but the Pixar film’s below-expectations debut didn’t quell continuing concerns about a rocky summer movie season.

The “Toy Story 4” opening, according to studio estimates Sunday, ranks as the fourth highest animated film opening ever, not accounting for inflation. Above it are 2018’s “Incredibles 2” (\$182 million), 2016’s “Finding Dory” (\$135 million), and 2007’s “Shrek the Third” (\$121 million). It’s the year’s third largest debut, trailing only a pair of other Disney releases: “Avengers: Endgame” and “Captain Marvel.”

But heading into the weekend, a \$140-150 million opening had seemed assured for “Toy Story 4,” which played in 4,575 North American theaters. Adjusted for inflation, the film came in shy of the \$110.3 million—or about \$129 million in today’s dollars—“Toy Story 3” made nine years ago.

The opening for “Toy Story 4” followed a string of disappointing sequels including “Dark Phoenix,” “Godzilla: King of the Monsters” and “Men in Black: International.” But “Toy Story 4” had something those films didn’t: great reviews. It rates 98% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences gave it an A CinemaScore.

The sequel, which introduces the child-made plaything Forky (voiced by Tony Hale) to the voice cast including Tom Hanks and Tim Allen, also grossed \$120 million in-

ternationally, including a modest \$13.4 million in China, the world’s second largest film market. It was trounced there by the rerelease of Hayao Miyazaki’s 2001 animated classic “Spirited Away” from Studio Ghibli, the Japan animation studio that has often served as an inspiration to Pixar.

Cathleen Taff, distribution chief for Disney, said the company was thrilled with the opening and praised Pixar’s high standards.

“The Pixar team has always been disciplined about making sure they have a compelling story to tell, and that is especially true when it comes to sequels if you look at their past,” said Taff. “Their process of sort of going through the rigor of making sure that this is a story people want told, the end result speaks for itself.”

The overall marketplace didn’t give “Toy Story 4” much momentum. Last week’s top film, Sony Pictures’ poorly reviewed “Men in Black International” slid 64 percent, slipping to fourth place with \$10.8 million.

The No. 2 film, Orion Pictures’ horror remake “Child’s Play”—cheekily positioned as the weekend’s R-rated toy movie—also opened below expectations with \$14.1 million. A remake of the 1988 original, the film stars Aubrey Plaza with Mark Hamill voicing the knife-wielding doll Chucky.

Luc Besson’s assassin thriller “Anna” missed out on the top 10 entirely, opening with a mere \$3.5 million in 2,114 theaters. Lionsgate, which bought U.S. distribution rights in 2017, did little to promote the film in advance of its release. In 2018, Besson was accused

of a rape by the actress Sandrine Besson. A lawyer for Besson denied the accusation and French authorities dropped the investigation in February citing a lack of evidence. Eight other women also accused Besson of sexual misconduct in a French publication.

In a summer season that’s running 6.5% off the pace of last year, according to Comscore, many had positioned “Toy Story 4” as a surefire savior, due in part to the enviable track record of Disney and Pixar. (Disney’s “Aladdin” remake this weekend passed \$800 million worldwide.) Instead, the weekend was down 27.2% from the same frame last year. Overwhelming the industry’s market leader, Disney was thought immune to any sequel downturn.

But most other studios would love to have a film underperform to \$118 million, with an expectation of long-term playability. Outside Sony’s upcoming “Spider-Man: Far From Home,” “Toy Story 4” has no family-friendly competition until Disney’s own “Lion King” remake opens July 19.

“The numbers being banded about out there preweekend were certainly much higher than the number that it came in with,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “But if we bring it down to earth and put some perspective on this, it was still a franchise-high debut. It was a global opening of \$238 million.”

But with underwhelming returns for even critically acclaimed comedies like “Booksmart” and seemingly

surefire bets like “The Secret Life of Pets 2,” little has gone according to plan in Hollywood’s primetime season.

“The summer has been a real head-scratcher,” said Dergarabedian.

In limited release, Neon’s “Wild Rose,” about a Scottish single mother (Jessie Buckley) who dreams of being a country music star, opened with a per-theater average of \$14,046 in four locations, and Magnolia Pictures’ documentary “Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am” debuted with a per-theater average of \$11,000 in four locations.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. “Toy Story 4,” \$118 million (\$120 million international).
2. “Child’s Play,” \$14.1 million (\$3.6 million international).
3. “Aladdin,” \$12.2 million (\$32.9 million international).
4. “Men in Black International,” \$10.8 million (\$30.2 million international).
5. “The Secret Life of Pets 2,” \$10.3 million (\$10.8 million international).
6. “Rocketman,” \$5.7 million (\$5.5 million international).
7. “John Wick: Chapter 3,” \$4.1 million (\$3.4 million international).
8. “Godzilla: King of the Monsters,” \$3.7 million (\$4 million international).
9. “Dark Phoenix,” \$3.6 million (\$11.1 million international).
10. “Shaft,” \$3.6 million.

BET Awards honor Mary J. Blige, Nipsey Hussle, Tyler Perry

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

The 2019 BET Awards featured a number of contemporary pop and rap stars who are dominating the charts, from Cardi B to Lil Nas X, but the show belonged to artists viewed as icons in the black community, including singer Mary J. Blige, filmmaker Tyler Perry and late rapper Nipsey Hussle.

Hussle, a respected and beloved community activist in South Los Angeles who was shot to death on March 31, posthumously earned the Humanitarian Award on Sunday night. His family, including his mother, father, grandmother, children and fiancée, actress Lauren London, accepted the honor on his behalf.

"I just want to thank you guys for all the love and support, and the marathon contin-

ues again," London said onstage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

John Legend, DJ Khaled, YG and Marsha Ambrosius celebrated Hussle, born Ermas Agghedom, with a performance.

Blige, who earned the Lifetime Achievement Award, ran through her hits during a lengthy performance, which featured Lil Kim and Method Man. The R&B star went from "My Life" to "No More

Drama" to "Just Fine," when audience members turned the aisles into "Soul Train" lines as they showed their best dance moves while the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul sang onstage.

Rihanna presented Blige with the award, who earned a standing ovation as she walked to the stage.

"Yeah, I know, a lot of hair," she said in her curly blonde-do. "It's a big day."

"Mommy, I love you and I want to thank you for your love and understanding," Blige said as her mom teared up in the audience.

The nine-time Grammy winner and two-time Oscar nominee went on to thank her father, saying she was happy their "relationship is healed." She also thanked her siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends, including longtime collaborator Diddy.

Another standing ovation during the nearly four-hour show came when The Exonerated Five—whose profiles were recently raised with the release of a Netflix series based on their lives—introduced a performance by R&B

singer H.E.R. and rapper YBN Cordae. Corey Wise, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana and Antron McCray spoke onstage as audience members got out of their seats to cheer them on. Directed by Ava DuVernay, "When They See Us" tells of the wrongful conviction of five black and Latino teenagers for the 1989 assault on a white female jogger in Central Park.

The audience also erupted in cheers for media mogul Tyler Perry, who earned the Ultimate Icon Award, presented to him by Taraji P. Henson.

Elton John gets top French award, joins AIDS fight call

PARIS (AP)—Elton John, a newly awarded Legion of honor pinned to his suit, joined a call Friday by French President Emmanuel Macron to fund AIDS research and treatment.

The world-acclaimed singer spoke alongside Macron before thousands of people packed into the presidential Elysee Palace courtyard for an event of the annual Fete de la Musique.

John was clearly moved at receiving France's highest award, pinned on him by Macron in a private ceremony, at-

tended by the singer's husband David Furnish and their two children, among some 20 people in his entourage present.

The president saluted the virtuoso musician as "an icon that knew how to set an example," the Elysee Palace said.

"To receive this decoration the day of the Fete de la Musique makes it even more special," John said later in the palace courtyard.

Macron used the occasion to make a call to youth and world leaders to replenish the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,

Tuberculosis and Malaria before an October summit in Lyon, France.

He said that 27 million people have been treated and saved through the Global Fund that raised about 13 billion euros in 2016.

"We must do better," he said, calling on all to mobilize over the next 110 days. "Make life impossible for us," he told the crowd, appealing to the youth of Europe and the world to badger their leaders.

John took up the call.

'Jeopardy!' champ Holzhauer a winner in TV ratings, too

NEW YORK (AP)—A case can be made that "Jeopardy!" savant James Holzhauer is one of the year's biggest TV stars, although a short-lived one.

An estimated 14.5 million people watched him on June 3, when the professional gambler from Las Vegas lost for first time after 32 consecutive wins and \$2,464,216 in prize money, the Nielsen company said. He left with the 16

highest one-day scores in the show's history.

The television ratings also put him in good company. In fact, no television series this season (football excluded) averaged more viewers per episode on the first night they aired. Not "The Big Bang Theory," not "NCIS," not even "Game of Thrones," although all those shows gain more viewers when time-shifting is

figured in.

In fact, the initial airing of the "Game of Thrones" series finale on HBO, considered the biggest event of the year in television, reached 13.6 million people, Nielsen said.

The first four games of the NBA Finals between Toronto and Golden State all had fewer viewers in the U.S. than Chicago librarian Emma Boettcher's take-down of Holzhauer.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

David Gilmour puts his guitars up for auction, raises \$21.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—An auction of David Gilmour's guitars has raised a lot of "Money"—to combat climate change. Christie's auction house says it raised \$21.5 million Thursday, selling off more than 120 guitars owned by the Pink Floyd guitarist, singer and songwriter. Proceeds went to ClientEarth, a nonprofit fighting climate change. The items included guitars by Fender, Rickenbacker, Ovation, Gibson, C.F. Martin and Gretsch, includ-

ing guitar cases, a banjo and amps. A black Stratocaster—dubbed the "Black Strat"—was the top item and was snatched up for \$3,975,000, a new world record for a guitar at auction. Gilmour tweeted: "We need a civilized world that goes on for all our grandchildren and beyond in which these guitars can be played and songs can be sung."

'Cinderella' film feted at Library of Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—No one arrived in a horse-drawn carriage. But there was valet parking for the guests invited to a "mini-ball" held at the

Library of Congress in honor of the Disney film "Cinderella." The Thursday evening event featured a costumed Cinderella character, who descended the library steps to the cheers of a crowd of children and adults, including some members of Congress and their families. Before Cinderella made her grand entrance, hundreds watched a screening of the Disney classic animated movie, released 70 years ago. The Library of Congress recently added the film to the National Film Registry. Attending a brief ceremony to mark the honor were Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and



HIGH-WIRE ACT

AP Aerialists Nik Wallenda, top, steps over his sister Lijana as they walk on a high wire strung between two skyscrapers 25 stories above Times Square, Sunday, June 23, 2019, in New York. Nik Wallenda is a seventh-generation acrobat, but this time, he said he was nervous. His sister, Lijana Wallenda, joined him Sunday night for the first time since her near-fatal accident in 2017, when she broke nearly every bone in her face. The siblings walked from opposite ends of the 1,300-foot wire (396-meter) suspended between the towers, crossing each other in the middle, where Lijana Wallenda sat on the wire and let her brother step over her. Both then continued to the opposite side.

Slide phone user is irritated by the pressure to upgrade

DEAR ABBY: My friends and family constantly ask me when I plan to get a new phone. I have a slide phone. I used to have a flip phone, which also drew the same questions. I am not a phone person. I have a land line at home with answering/messaging in place.

I am sick of the questions about my phone. I don't want a smartphone. I have my little phone for emergencies, not so everyone I know can reach me immediately. I wouldn't dream of asking people when they are going to get a better TV, newer shoes, a more expensive car, a bigger house, a more expensive handbag. Why is it that people feel the need to shame me about my phone?

It is to the point now that I may turn it off and turn it on only when I want to use it. It is becoming difficult for me to remain civil about this subject. I envision myself throwing it in the trash can next time someone asks.

LIKE THE OLD DAYS

DEAR LIKE THE OLD DAYS: Some people view having the latest model of cellphone as a status symbol, which is why so many feel compelled to buy one as soon as a new one is released. However, while that dreaded question may be posed in terms of when you plan to buy a new phone,

I suspect what the askers really mean is, "When are you going to make it easier for us to communicate with you?"

If you shut your phone off and use it only when you wish to use it, you won't be alone in the practice. While it may frustrate those who want immediate gratification, it will allow you to manage your time without unwelcome interruptions.

DEAR ABBY: Last night my wife and I, both retired M.D.s, met our daughter "Jackie," her wife, "Kelly," and Jackie's daughter for dinner at a restaurant to celebrate Jackie's 50th birthday. Kelly had called a couple of weeks ago to invite us.

My wife and I pay the check when we meet Jackie and her family to eat, which is usually brunch on Sunday, but because Kelly invited us, we were unsure whether we should last night. (Our son gets upset if we offer to pay in similar circumstances.) My wife asked Kelly at the table if we could pay for our dinners. We had already presented Jackie with a birthday card with a check for \$1,000 enclosed.

Jackie texted us today, incensed that we did not pick up the check. Should we have? Jackie is a Ph.D. and makes a comfortable living. Her wife is an Ivy League graduate.

BAFFLED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

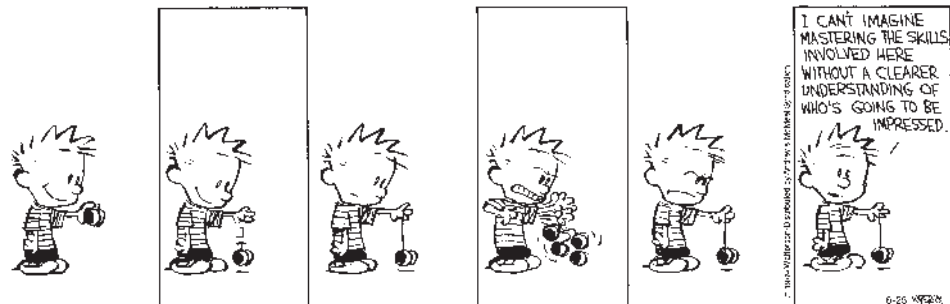
DEAR BAFFLED: Your daughter's manners are appalling. Her wife invited you and your wife to the dinner, which made you HER guests. It was sweet (and generous) of your wife to ask if the two of you could pay for your meals—in addition to the very generous gift you had given your daughter. If apologies are in order, the people who should receive them are you and your wife.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



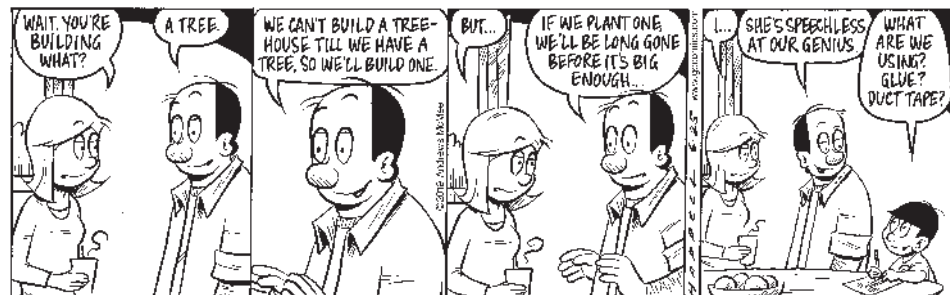
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

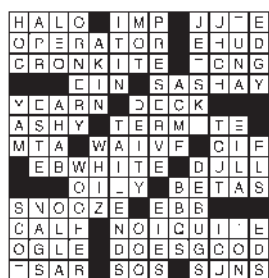


CROSSWORD

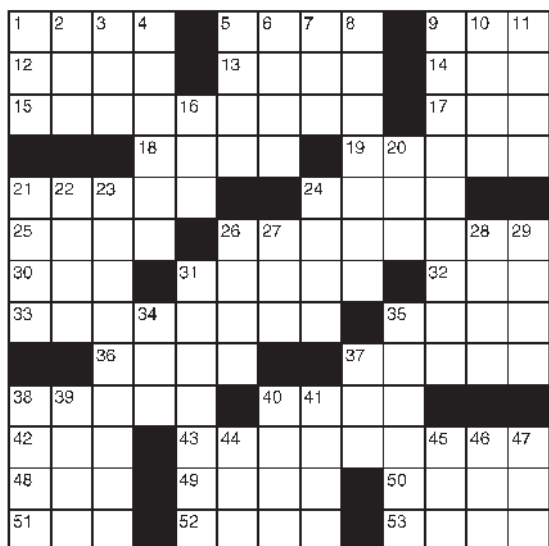
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mausoleum
5 "Born Free" lioness
9 Branch
12 Ornamental jug
13 Jupiter counterpart
14 Sheepish remark
15 Famed diarist
17 Squeak stopper
18 Historic times
19 Grown-up
21 Town square
24 Tizzy
25 Occupy the throne
26 Imaginary
30 Right angle
31 Count with an orchestra
32 Simile center
33 Bloated, in a way
35 Computer brand
36 Literary Jane
- DOWN**
- 1 Earl Grey, e.g.
37 Puccini work
38 Curry spice
40 Roundish do
42 Palindromic constellation
43 Yearly charge
48 Up to
49 Oboe insert
50 Cupid's realm
51 Compass dir.
52 Columnist Maureen
53 Milky gem
- 2 Have**
3 Gents
4 Light wind
5 Poet Pound
6 Meadows
7 Day light
8 With suspicion, as a look
9 Complete reversal
10 Banister
11 Beer ingredient
16 Monk's title
20 Cat's 502
21 Get ready, briefly
22 Hum-dinger
- 23 Like**
the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
24 Use scissors
26 Lose color
27 Tempest
28 Addict
29 Zhivago's love
31 Novelist Malamud
34 Memo letters
35 Lunar program
37 Mouths (Lat.)
38 Felines
39 "The Haj" author
40 From the start
41 Elmer of cartoons
44 "The Matrix" role
45 Dandy guy
46 Actress Mendes
47 Moray, for one

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-25



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Busy Philipps, 40; Linda Cardellini, 44; Ricky Gervais, 58; Carly Simon, 74.

Happy Birthday: Use your ingenuity. Be innovative and willing to see both sides of a situation. Your success depends on your maneuverability physically, financially and emotionally. Understanding what you are up against and knowing what you want will help you figure out the best incentives to offer to sail past your opponents. A steady pace and composed demeanor will do. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 21, 34, 41, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Give information a chance to sink in before you take action. Misunderstanding what's meant can lead to a disagreement that can upset your reputation or status. Spend more time on personal improvement, not trying to change others. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunity is within reach. Don't sit back when you should be jumping forward. Put everything in its place, abide by the rules and enjoy the ride. Fortitude, courage and common sense will help you reach your destination. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Aim for equality and fair play. Joint ventures will need to be monitored if you want to avoid taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Don't sulk on the sidelines; address concerns openly before it's too late. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ease into your day. Refuse to let the little things get to you. Focus on what's meaningful,

and disregard trivial matters that will distract you from getting things done. Progress counts, and senseless arguments don't. Let go of the past. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Mingle, show interest, listen and learn. The information you pick up will help you know who you can trust. Safety is the result of taking care of matters personally. A proposal looks promising. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A contribution you make should not break the bank. Offer your time, energy and services, not your cash. The time spent doing for others will give insight into lucrative possibilities. You can have fun without being excessive. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand your ground, but don't deny someone the right to decline. Keeping whatever you face in perspective will help you understand what's important to you may not be to someone else. Balance and freedom will be required. ***

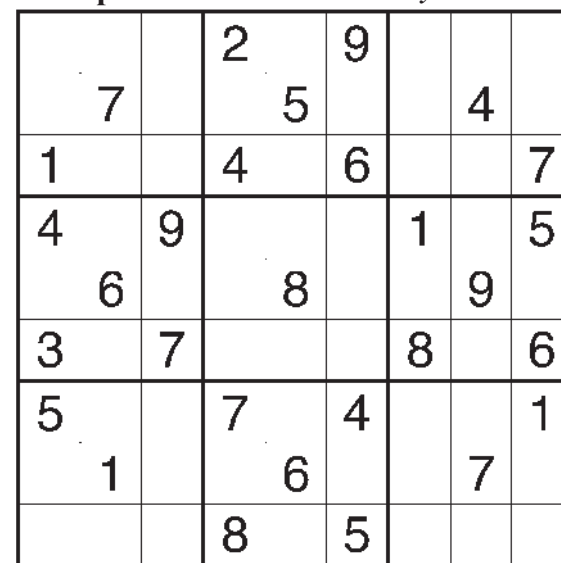
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Participation, discussions and looking at all your options will bring about positive change. Your propensity to learn and engage in something unusual will encourage you to improve your current lifestyle. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional stress will multiply if you try to buy love, cheer yourself up with unnecessary purchases or aren't honest about the way you feel. It's best to be open; find out where you stand, and make positive adjustments. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



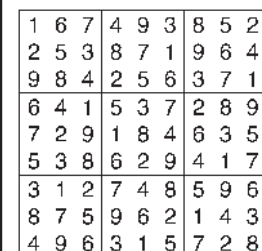
Difficulty Level ★★

6/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Just keep moving. Set your sights on what you want to accomplish. Refuse to let an emotional incident wear you down or set you back. Change begins within, so don't wait for someone else to make an adjustment. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what makes you feel comfortable. It's up to you to initiate change and to direct your energy into something that can bring you satisfaction. Reconnect with someone from your past, and it will help you see clearer moving forward. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expand your interests, and develop your talents. Express what you would like, and make plans to put your ideas into motion. Refuse to let anyone stand between you and the success you are trying so hard to achieve. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, helpful and progressive. You are alert and complex.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAPPY EMOTIONS

Solution: 8 letters



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Achieve, Admire, Affection, Amused, Blessed, Bliss, Bold, Bright, Calm, Care, Cheer, Comfort, Content, Eager, Ecstatic, Elevate, Euphoria, Free, Glad, Glee, Gratitude, Hope, Humor, Inspiration, Interest, Joyful, Laugh, Liberate, Love, Lucky, Music, Peace, Please, Pride, Relief, Safe, Serenity, Simple, Smile, Surprise, Tranquil, Trust, Worthy, Zen

Yesterday's Answer: Legumes
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Job duties:
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Requirements:
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Kawhi considering re-signing with Raptors



TORONTO — Kawhi Leonard will decline his 2019-20 player option worth \$21.3 million to become an unrestricted free agent, league sources said.

The 6-foot-7 All-Star will be one of the marquee free agents on the open market.

The Raptors are the only team that can offer Leonard a max contract for five years and \$190 million. Leonard, 27, is believed to be seriously considering re-signing with the Raptors, sources said.

But there are a handful of teams who could secure a meeting with the 2019 NBA Finals MVP, sources said.

The appeal of returning home to Southern California is enticing to the two-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, but with the trust the Raptors built while Leonard led the franchise to its first NBA title by upsetting the Golden State Warriors, rival executives view his current team as the favorite to land him when the free-agent negotiating period begins June 30, sources said.

Leonard had career highs in points (26.6) and rebounds (7.3) in his lone season with the Raptors.

Leonard was drafted in 2011 and was the 2014 NBA Finals MVP with the San Antonio Spurs.

Recruitment billboards at LA

Free agency is growing nearer and with that, a few interesting billboards have caught the attention of commuters in Los Angeles.

“Free agency around the corner? Must be billboard season in LA.”

With no branding on them, this may be the work of Clippers fans doing what they can to grab the attention of No. 2



AP
Push for Kawhi Leonard to sign with Clippers moves to billboards.

ahead of his big decision. Or, since they're a bit unoriginal and lack cleverness, this may just be a case of nobody wanting to take credit for them.

Regardless, with Leonard's history when it comes to gigantic signs in populated areas, it's a cheeky move.

Following Toronto's victory to open up the NBA Finals, New Balance—one of Leonard's sponsors—put up this billboard in Oakland: Spotted on an Oakland Highway.

At the time, that was a pretty bold move considering the Raptors were taking on the Golden State Warriors, two-time defending champs. However, things ended up working out nicely there.

After Toronto sealed the deal in Game 6 and the city's streets flooded with thousands of enthused supporters, New Balance came through with

this masterpiece at Yonge-Dundas Square: “Board man gets a billboard”

CP3 denies trade request

If there's trouble brewing between Chris Paul and his Houston Rockets teammates, the veteran point guard is doing his best to hide it.

Paul spoke with the media at his Go Hoop Day celebrations in Los Angeles on Sunday, where he shot down rumors that he is unhappy with his current team.

“I'll be in Houston,” Paul said, via the Houston Chronicle. “I'm happy about that. I'm very happy about that. I'm good.”

Of course, Paul doesn't have a lot of options for what to say. If he did truly want a trade, giving any more credence to reports of him being

a bad teammate would only hurt his trade value.

As first reported by Yahoo Sports' Vincent Goodwill, Paul's relationship with the Rockets and James Harden has reached a breaking point, and it seems best for all parties to split up.

Goodwill reported that Harden made a “him or me” ultimatum and that Paul requested a trade, although Paul made sure to deny that on Sunday:

“I never asked for a trade,” Paul said. “I never demanded a trade.”

Two seasons ago, the Rockets had the league's best record and held a 3-2 lead over the eventual champion Golden State Warriors before Paul suffered a season-ending hamstring injury. The players' differences might feel smaller had they come home with a ring instead of another playoff exit.

Instead, the two ball-dominant guards found it hard to coexist. Paul reportedly is tired of Harden's style, and Harden didn't appreciate Paul's personality and injury problems. The only issue is that Paul still has \$124 million over three years left on his contract.

Paul's \$41 million salary might not sound so bad a year or two ago, but between his injuries and declining play — two issues that won't get better with age — he has one of the toughest contracts to move in the league.

Paul's shooting numbers are particularly concerning. His 41.9 percent shooting from the field was a career-low, while his 35.8 percent three-point shot was a worst since 2012-13. From the all-important corner, he was even worse at 34.5 percent.

The Rockets reportedly

tried to swing Paul to the New York Knicks but were rebuffed. Even if the Knicks' chances of landing at least one of Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving are diminished, they still didn't want to take a chance on the nine-time All-Star.

Finding a fit for Paul will be tricky, especially since they Rockets are reportedly trying to clear salary to land Jimmy Butler. Few teams with cap space are going to be gunning for the playoffs, so the Rockets may have to settle for swapping bad contracts.

For example, Paul hails from North Carolina, and the Charlotte Hornets might hypothetically be a fit. However, they would only need him if Kemba Walker leaves, and if that happens, they may just prefer to rebuild from the ground up instead of taking on a disgruntled former star.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Christian Yelich first met Giannis Antetokounmpo last month in downtown Milwaukee.

The encounter happened inside a hallway at Fiserv Forum after Antetokounmpo and the Bucks eliminated the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The meeting of the Milwaukee stars occurred about six months after Yelich won the 2018 NL MVP award.

Now, Antetokounmpo could bring another MVP trophy to the city situated on Lake Michigan's western shore.

The Bucks forward is a finalist for NBA MVP along with Oklahoma City swingman Paul George and Houston guard James Harden, who won the award last season.

Yelich: Giannis winning NBA MVP in Milwaukee would be 'cool'

The winner will be announced Monday night.

“Obviously I'm happy to be one of the three finalists,” Antetokounmpo said two days after losing to the eventual NBA champion Toronto Raptors in the Eastern Conference finals. “Hopefully I get it. If not, I have many more years to be able to help my teammates be successful and put me in a situation that we can get it.”

Antetokounmpo set career highs by averaging 27.7 points, 12.5 rebounds and 5.9 assists while leading the Bucks to a league-best 60-22 record in the regular season. The 6-foot-11 first-team All-NBA performer is just the sec-

ond player in league history to average at least 27 points, 12 rebounds and 5.5 assists, joining Oscar Robertson during the 1961-62 campaign.

The 24-year-old Athens, Greece, native would be only the fifth international NBA MVP, joining Dirk Nowitzki, Steve Nash, Tim Duncan and Hakeem Olajuwon.

Yelich won the NL MVP award in near-unanimous fashion in November after becoming the first Brewers player to win a batting title. He finished two home runs and an RBI shy of the NL's first Triple Crown since the St. Louis Cardinals' Joe Medwick in 1937.

The Thousand Oaks, Cali-

fornia, native garnered 29 of 30 first-place votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America to win in a landslide over Javier Baez of the Chicago Cubs and third-place finisher Nolan Arenado of the Colorado Rockies. The other first-place vote went to New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom, who finished fifth in the MVP balloting a day after winning the NL Cy Young Award.

Yelich, 27, called his MVP victory “mind-boggling” and told The Associated Press he's rooting for Antetokounmpo to bring the NBA's top individual honor back to Milwaukee.

“It'll be cool,” said Yelich,

who is in the midst of yet another MVP-caliber season. “It's definitely unique. It doesn't happen all the time when you have two guys that have won an MVP in the same city in different sports. It's definitely exciting times for Milwaukee and sports fans here.”

Having the NBA and NL or AL MVP award winners in the same city at the same time isn't the rarest of occurrences.

Harden and Jose Altuve accomplished the feat in Houston in 2018 after the Astros second baseman won the 2017 American League MVP. It also happened for Houston in 1994 with Olajuwon and Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell.

Chicago also has seen it happen a couple times: Michael Jordan and Sammy Sosa in 1998, and Andre Dawson won the NL MVP in 1987 followed by Jordan taking the 1988 NBA MVP honor.

Roger Clemens and Larry Bird did it in Boston in 1986, and Mike Schmidt and Julius Erving were the toast of Philadelphia in 1981.

The script also worked out perfectly for Los Angeles when Kirk Gibson won the 1988 NL MVP and Magic Johnson captured the 1989 NBA MVP.

But all of those most valuable overlaps occurred in major media markets, and Milwaukee is one of the smallest markets in major North American professional sports.

Will Smith hits historic walk-off HR for Dodgers



LOS ANGELES—Another day, another walk-off home run by a rookie for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The team's magical season added an unprecedented chapter Sunday afternoon as the Dodgers completed a three-game sweep of the Colorado Rockies when pinch hitter Will Smith blasted a three-run bomb in the bottom of the ninth for their 6-3 win.

It was impressive for the 24-year-old Smith, who now has two walk-off homers in just seven career games. But for the Dodgers it represented something baseball has literally never seen before.

Los Angeles took every game of the series at Dodger Stadium with a walk-off home run—with a rookie hitting the game-winner in back-to-back-to-back contests. Rookie teammates had never hit walk-off home runs in consecutive games before this series by the Dodgers, per the Elias Sports Bureau. Smith's shot Sunday extended the record to three games in a row with a rookie walk-off blast.

Before Smith's heroics, 26-year-old Matt Beatty launched a two-run shot Friday to give the Dodgers the win in Walker Buehler's dominant outing on the mound.

On Saturday night, 23-year-old Alex Verdugo—who had appeared in parts of the prior two seasons for the Dodgers—hit a solo shot in the 11th to make MLB history.

Braves 4, Nationals 3

In Washington, Johan Camargo hit a two-run, pinch-hit homer in the top of the 10th inning to give the Atlanta Braves a over the Nationals.

The Braves took two of three from the Nats to win the series.

Luke Jackson pitched the 10th inning for his 11th save despite giving up a run, two hits and a walk. Trea Turner drove in a run with a fielder's choice, but the Nats could not plate the tying run.

Tanner Rainey (1-2) gave up a walk to Ozzie Albies with one out in the 10th and then Camargo smashed his second pinch-hit homer of the year into the bleachers in right for a 4-2 lead. A.J. Minter (2-4) pitched one inning to earn the win, fanning Gerardo Parra for the last out of the ninth with the winning run on second.

Astros 9, Yankees 4

In New York, Justin Verlander pitched seven innings and Tyler White hit his first career grand slam as Houston snapped a season-high seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Yankees.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Will Smith, right, hits a two-run, walk-off home run as Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Scott Oberg, left, and catcher Tony Wolters watch during the ninth inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Los Angeles.

The Astros hit four homers to halt their longest losing streak since June 4-10, 2015. Houston avoided losing eight straight for the first time since a 15-game skid in September 2013.

Verlander (10-3) helped the Astros get their first win since June 15 by allowing three runs on four hits. Verlander struck out nine and walked two.

Cubs 5, Mets 3

In Chicago, on a day for noteworthy home runs, Javier Baez made the 100th of his career one to savor, rallying the Cubs to victory over the Mets.

Baez's three-run shot in the eighth inning off right-hander Seth Lugo helped prevent Chicago's first three-game losing streak at home this season. It was just the second home run for the Cubs in a four-game series against the Mets, while New York hit nine.

The Mets' Pete Alonso also went deep, setting the club record for rookie home runs with 27 a day after tying Darryl Strawberry's rookie mark, set in 1983. Alonso hit his home run to center field against Cole Hamels in the fourth.

Pirates 11, Padres 10, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Kevin Newman's two-out, bases-loaded walk brought in the fourth run of the 11th inning as the Pirates completed a three-game sweep of visiting San Diego.

San Diego took a 10-7 lead in the top of the 11th against Francisco Liriano (2-1) for its second three-run lead.

In the bottom of the inning, Phil Maton walked Bryan Reynolds, struck out Starling Marte and gave up a single to Josh Bell. Melky Cabrera's RBI double made it 10-8. Matt Wisler (2-2) relieved and gave up a tying two-run single to Jacob Stallings. A single and walk loaded the bases before Wisler walked Newman.

Marlins 6, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Jordan Yamamoto allowed the first runs of his career but made franchise history by winning his third start in as many tries as Miami completed a three-game sweep against the Phillies.

The Marlins, who have the worst record in the National League at 30-46, completed their third series sweep of the season. The Phillies, who have dropped seven straight, were swept for the third time.

Yamamoto (3-0), who opened his career by throwing seven scoreless innings in back-to-back starts against the St. Louis Cardinals, saw his shut-out streak end in the first inning Sunday. He walked the first three batters before Jean Segura gave the Phillies a 2-1 lead with a two-run, one-out single.

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Marcus Stroman

pitched six scoreless innings, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had three hits and an outfield assist and the Blue Jays defeated the Red Sox.

Eric Sogard added a home run and Danny Jansen had a two-run single for the Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays won the three-game series—their fourth series win on the road this season—despite losing the opener. They have six wins in their past 12 games after going 2-11.

Indians 8, Tigers 3

In Cleveland, Bobby Bradley belted an RBI double in his first major league at-bat to ignite a five-run second inning as the Indians completed their second straight sweep of Detroit.

Carlos Santana launched his team-leading 17th homer and rookie Zach Plesac (3-2) tossed seven strong innings for the Indians, who have won eight of nine against Detroit this season.

Jason Kipnis ripped a two-run single and Francisco Lindor, Kevin Plawecki and rookie Oscar Mercado each drove in a run as Cleveland cruised to its eighth victory in 10 games.

Angels 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Tommy La Stella and David Fletcher each had two hits and two RBIs as visiting Los Angeles held on for a win against the Cardinals to avoid getting swept in the

three-game series.

Albert Pujols started his third straight game at first base and went 2-for-5 for the Angels, who ended a three-game losing streak.

Pujols played 11 seasons in St. Louis and won two World Series titles and three National League Most Valuable Player awards for the Cardinals before signing with the Angels following the 2011 season.

Brewers 7, Reds 5

In Milwaukee, the Brewers scored five runs in the third inning, and Brandon Woodruff earned his team-high ninth win in a victory over Cincinnati.

The five-run inning helped Milwaukee earn a split in the four-game series, taking the last two games against their National League Central rivals.

Woodruff (9-2) worked seven strong innings, allowing three runs on seven hits with a career-high 12 strikeouts and one walk.

Royals 6, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Hunter Dozier had two extra-base hits, including a three-run home run, and Alex Gordon had two run-scoring doubles as the Royals defeated visiting Minnesota.

Homer Bailey (7-6) picked up the win for Kansas City. He allowed just one run on five hits in 5 1/3 innings. He threw 108 pitches, one outing after a season-high 121 pitches

against Seattle. His final batter was Eddie Rosario, who struck out after a 14-pitch at-bat.

Rays 8, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Travis d'Arnaud contributed a key hit to each of two big early uprisings and left-hander Ryan Yarbrough pitched six strong innings, allowing Tampa Bay to earn a split of its four-game series against the Athletics.

Avisail Garcia and Joey Wendle collected three hits apiece, while Austin Meadows matched d'Arnaud with three RBIs, helping the Rays win for just the second time in seven games on their 10-game trip.

Mariners 13, Orioles 3

In Seattle, J.P. Crawford went 4-for-4 with a home run and four RBIs as the Mariners defeated Baltimore.

Mac Williamson also homered for the Mariners, who took three of four games in the series.

Trey Mancini homered for Baltimore, which was trying to win back-to-back games for the first time since May 6 after snapping a 10-game losing streak Saturday with an 8-4 victory.

Rangers 7, White Sox 4

In Arlington, Adrian Sampson allowed just one run in seven innings as Texas held on to win the rubber game of its three-game series over Chicago.

Sampson (6-4) scattered seven hits with one walk and four strikeouts in winning for the sixth time in his past seven decisions. The Rangers turned three double plays.

Tim Federowicz and Danny Santana both hit homers in the Rangers' four-run second inning against White Sox starter Ivan Nova (3-6), who allowed another run in the fifth.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Tim Lincecum lined a bases-loaded single over third base with one out in the 10th inning as Arizona ended a season-high six-game losing streak with a victory over San Francisco.

Christian Walker singled to open the 10th inning off Mark Melancon (3-2), and Jarrod Dyson walked with one out. The runners advanced on a wild pitch, and Carson Kelly was intentionally walked to load the bases for Lincecum, who delivered his second walk-off hit this season.

Mexico nips Martinique to reach quarters

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Mexico coach Gerardo Martino wasn't particularly pleased with his team's play Sunday night, even after it went unbeaten in CONCACAF Gold Cup group play to advance to the quarterfinals with a 3-2 win over Martinique.

His team only converted three of 24 shots on goal and nearly squandered a two-goal lead in the closing minutes.

"I'm not happy," Martino said. "When we are being pressured like (at the end of the game) we always try to take the initiative and continue playing. We had too many distractions, especially defensively, and further on in the competition that could cost us the match."

Mexico was never in danger of not making the quarterfinals after winning its first two matches by a combined score of 10-1. So it rested a handful of players, including goaltender Guillermo Ochoa and midfielder Erick Gutierrez, who injured his hamstring in a 3-1 win over Canada in a previous group play game.

On Sunday, Mexico did just enough to win.

Uriel Antuna, Raul Jimenez and Fernando Navarro scored as Mexico prevailed in front of 59,283 fans at Bank of America Stadium, the large majority of which were clad in country's green, red and white colors.

Kevin Parsemain and Jordy Delem scored for Martinique (1-2).

After several missed opportunities early, Antuna got Mexico on the board in the 29th minute with a nifty left-footed shot between the legs of a Martinique defender that rolled just inside the right post.

A last-minute addition to the roster, the Mexican forward is having quite the Gold Cup tournament. Antuna scored three goals and added an assist in a 7-0 rout over Cuba in



Mexico's Raul Jimenez (9) scores a goal past Martinique goalkeeper Loic Chauvet, left, during the second half of their CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Mexico's opening game June 16 at the Rose Bowl.

Despite outshooting Martinique 13-5 and controlling the ball for 68 percent of the first half, Mexico only lead 1-0 at the break.

Martinique took advantage of the missed chances, tying it at 1 in the 56th minute on a free kick by Kevin Parsemain.

But Mexico would never trail.

Jimenez answered in the 61st minute scoring on a cross from Rodolfo Pizarro to make it 2-1. Fernando Navarro then gave Mexico an insurance goal it would later need by scoring 11 minutes later.

Martinique gave Mexico a scare when it cut the lead to 3-2 in the 84th minute when Delem pushed a shot past backup goaltender Jonathan Orozco. And it had a few other

chances to tie the match, but couldn't convert.

"We had a good game, I don't think anyone here would say we did not," said Martinique coach Mario Bocaly. "It was a continuation of the work we have been doing for the last 18 months. We have started playing as a team."

That left Bocaly lamenting an earlier group play loss to Canada, one that prevented his team from reaching the quarterfinals.

"There are regrets coming to mind. It was the first game and we were not good physically or tactically in that game," Bocaly said.

Canada joined Mexico in advancing out of Group A into the quarterfinals next Saturday night in Houston, Texas. Mexico will play the runner-up of

Group B, while Canada will play the winner of Group B. Their opponents have not yet been determined.

USMNT rewarded

It certainly won't erase the bad memories, but it will put the U.S. men's national team in position to create some new positive ones.

In their first meeting since that traumatic World Cup qualifying defeat 20 months ago in Couva, the USA crushed Trinidad & Tobago, 6-0, on a much flatter and more forgiving field at FirstEnergy Stadium in Cleveland. It was the largest margin of victory ever achieved by the U.S. against the Soca Warriors, and the win clinched a spot in the CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinals with one game remaining in the group stage. And this time,

it's Trinidad that's eliminated.

There was no revenge or redemption available Saturday night, but a second straight win and improved performance should have U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter's team feeling a bit more buoyant heading into the business end of the continental championship.

Christian Pulisic wasn't poor in the 4-0 win over Guyana, he just looked a bit rusty.

CNMI

From Page 28

CNMI team officials have yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiries on the tiebreak rules.

Meanwhile, defending champion South Korea secured the No. 1 spot in Pool A after hammering the Philippines 12-1. The host country now has a 3-0 record and will

And that was understandable. It was his first game in a month and after a few promising early runs, he faded. On Saturday in Cleveland, it was his start that was on the tentative side, as his dribbling was less effective against a packed T&T defense. His shifts toward the left wing suggested he might be more comfortable wide than in the playmaking position Berhalter prefers.

go for a sweep today against Thailand. The Philippines fell to a 2-1 mark, but is still in the race for the remaining semis berth, along with China, which also holds a 2-1 slate. The Philippines and China will collide in an important game tomorrow, while the former will first meet Indonesia (0-3) today, and the latter will take on Guam (1-2).

SATO

From Page 28

of Saipan.

Meanwhile, other age group top placers were Josh Jason (men's under 19); Shuji Kuroda (men's 20 to 29); Kelsey Leila Lizama (women's 20 to 29); Jay-ar Barrios (men's 30 to 39); Pipit Ball (women's 30 to 39); Noriko Jim (women's 40 to 49); Taro Goto (men's 50 to 59); Lydia Tan (women's 50 to 59); Steven Pixley (men's 60 and above); and Fely Garcia (women's 60 and above).

Rotary Club president Greg Borja thanked the following sponsors of the fundraising run: Zumba, Let's Move Marianas, McDonald's Saipan, Coca Cola, Twins Supermarket, Atkins Kroll Toyota, Ming Yang Supermarket, Triple J Saipan, Herman's Bakery, Yaong Corporation, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Computer Services, Joeten Superstore, Fiesta Resort &

Spa, MegaByte Saipan, Duttu Free Sore, National Office Supply, and D&Q.



MARC VENUS

Kosuke Sato poses with his first place medal after ruling the men's division of last Saturday's 5th Annual Rotary McFun 5K Run.

USWNT

From Page 27

Like the men's team that won the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Spain plays a distinct style. Unlike powerful and direct foes such as Canada, England, France and Germany, Spain passes teams to death.

They rarely lose the ball; they out-possessed the Americans in that January match with their own brand of the "tiki-taka" ethos that Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez popularized with the national team.

"Incredible team," said USWNT veteran Ali Krieger. "Very crafty, very technical, very smart on the ball and intelligent in their decision-making."

"They're super technical," Press added. "They want to go through you on the ground, right through the middle of the field."

The U.S. hasn't conceded a goal so far at this World Cup, but that's not the same as being perfect. If there's any area they can improve upon, it's not giving the ball away cheaply. Sweden was unable to capitalize on those errors in the group finale. Spain isn't quite as good, but they might be better set up to punish those turnovers.

"They're very good at finding different seams," center back Becky Sauerbrunn said. "It's something our back line will have to be vigilant about."

Still, the U.S. remains the heavy favorite, in this match and overall. Both Krieger and O'Hara noted that Ellis' consistent message has been to control their own performance rather than worry about what any specific opponent does well. Fellow vet Carli Lloyd summed up her team's collective mentality after the last match.

KANOA

From Page 28

single season.

"The five division titles we won in the spring season were products of our grassroots program and the commitment and support that we are getting from our players, their parents, the coaches, and the club officials," Kanoa FC president Merlie Tolentino said.

Kanoa technical director Raymond Zapanta echoed Tolentino's sentiments.

"Many of our players grew up playing together for many years, and kids with potential or kids that want extra training would play-up with the older kids. We went through many losses before we started winning," Zapanta said.

For added game experience,

Kanoa encouraged its promising U12 players to play-up to both U15 and U18 divisions, while majority of the players attended multiple training days at the William S. Reyes Elementary School grounds.

"We also constantly remind them that their hard work will payoff soon if they first enjoy playing together," said Zapanta, adding that the toughest title they won this season was the boys U15.

Kanoa's boys U15 crew played their final matches with no substitutes. A few players got injured during the season. The loss to MPU (last game in the regular season) probably was their lowest point, but that also served as a motivation to Kanoa players, as they came back strong in the tiebreak match, 3-2.

The club shared their success to the players' parents.

"We have very supportive parents that watch every game as much as possible, and allow kids to carpool together to get to their games," Zapanta said.

From being the perennial last placers in various competitions, Kanoa players, with the help of NMIFA, turned out to become members of the CNMI national teams and unselfishly reached out to upcoming players on their club to share what they have learned from high-level tournaments and opponents. Players in higher age group also officiate matches.

"Our club players that make it to the national team come back to the club and coach the younger kids. They share their experiences and knowl-

edge of what happens in national training and bring it to the grassroots level. It is only recently when we started getting these coaches licensed," Zapanta said.

After their outstanding spring season, Kanoa is taking a break for a while, as several of its players will be attending national team duties. However, they will surely buckle down to work early into the fall season and keep their eye on the prize.

"It took a lot of hard work to get to where we are now. We know everyone will be out to get us, so we will train harder and enjoy every game," Zapanta said. "Now that we are on top, we need to work on our shortcomings to stay on top. Our next goal is to place in the U18 boys division."

France wins to set up potential duel vs US

PARIS (AP)—As the score remained tied in extra time and the clock ticked toward a penalty kicks shootout, France's stress kept increasing. Hosting the Women's World Cup, Les Bleues are expected to win the title or at least come close.

"It's not simple. We're playing on our home turf," coach Corinne Diacre said through a translator. "There's a constant reminder that we have this pressure to perform."

France survived its first knockout match and advanced to the quarterfinals when captain Amandine Henry redirected Amel Majri's free kick for a tiebreaking goal in the 107th minute of a 2-1 victory over Brazil on Sunday night at Le Havre.

"I didn't remember what happened," Henry said through a translator. "I had my teammates jumping on top of me."

The World Cup hosts, in the quarterfinals for the third straight time, will play the defending champion United States or Spain at Paris on Friday.

"France has everything that it takes to win," Brazil coach Vadão said through a translator. "France is absolutely prepared to win this World Cup."

France joined England, Germany and Norway in a thus-far all-European quarter-final field.

"We know that there will be pressure. We know that there will be this burden to bear," Diacre said. "You have to understand that when you're playing in front of such a huge crowd, even when you're on your home turf, it's not something that's easy to get your head around. I think that we can be a little bit patient. I think we can allow our players to crumble under pressure, albeit for a couple of seconds."

Valérie Gauvin, whose first-half goal was disallowed in a video review, put fourth-ranked France ahead in the 52nd minute before a crowd of 23,965 at Stade Océane, but Thaisa tied the score 11 minutes later for No. 10 Brazil.

Henry scored on a left-footed shot from 7 yards, getting ahead of Monica for her 13th goal in 86 international appearances, her second goal of the tournament.

Brazil had a chance to go ahead near the end of the first extra-time period when Debinha broke in alone and beat goalkeeper Sarah Bouhaddi, but her shot headed toward goal was blocked in front of the line by defender Griedge Mbock Bathy.

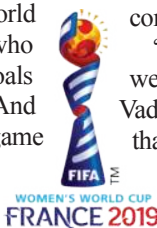
"We weren't at our best. ... I didn't recognize my team,"



Diacre said. "There is something that is not jelling. Why? Because people are unfortunately not hitting their potential on an individual basis."

This marked perhaps the final World Cup game for 33-year-old Brazilian star

Marta, a six-time world player of the year who scored a record 17 goals in five tournaments. And it likely was the last game in the showcase for 41-year-old Formiga, who appeared in a re-



cord seven World Cups.

"It's very unlikely that we will see another Marta," Vadão said. "It's unlikely that we still see another player like her for her talent, her professionalism, her character,

everything."

France appeared to go ahead in the 23rd minute when Kadidiatou Diani lifted a cross in front of the goal. Brazil goalkeeper Barbara got her hands on the ball and Gauvin crashed into her. The ball went

AP
France's Amandine Henry takes a shot during their Women's World Cup Round of 16 soccer match against Brazil at Stade Océane, in Le Havre, France, Sunday, June 23, 2019.

off Gauvin's shoulder and into the net as both players fell to the ground. After they recovered, Canadian referee Marie-Soleil Beaudoin signaled for a video review, and the goal was disallowed because of a foul.

Gauvin did score a goal that counted early in the second half. Diani sped down a flank past Brazilian defender Tamires and crossed. Gauvin slid in ahead of Leticia Santos and poked the ball past Barbara for her 12th goal in 22 international appearances, her second of the tournament.

England ousts fuming Cameroon

As the Cameroon players protested and play was delayed, England's staff and players watched in disbelief.

"I didn't know what was going on," England coach Phil Neville said. "Are they going to walk off?"

Twice, the English couldn't be sure if Sunday's Women's World Cup last-16 game would resume as the opposition lost its cool in the humidity of northern France and complained about decisions that went against them.

Anger erupted when video reviews on offside decisions allowed Ellen White to send England to a 2-0 lead before halftime and then denied Cameroon the goal that would have brought them within one after the break.

Referee Quin Liang struggled to maintain control, or resume the game as Cameroon players seethed.

"It's never happened to me before in a game of football," England forward Fran Kirby said. "We had to keep our heads and stay in the game."

England won 3-0 to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Norway on Thursday but Neville was subdued because of the Cameroonian conduct. He also claimed there were "people fighting in the VIP area and in our hotel" which England shared with Cameroon.

"I sat through 90 minutes and felt ashamed," Neville said. "Under circumstances I've never seen on a football field before, I was completely and utterly ashamed of the behavior of the opposition."

"I didn't enjoy the game for that reason. The players didn't enjoy the game for that reason apart from the fact they are in a quarterfinal."

Slick-passing Spain could create problems for USWNT

REIMS, France—Heading into 2019, the defending World Cup champion United States women's national team had faced all but two of the 23 other nations competing at this summer's tournament in France.

One of the outliers was Cameroon. The other was Spain, the opponent that the Americans will meet here on Monday with a quarterfinal berth on the line.

La Roja is universally considered an up-and-coming team in women's soccer circles, and for good reason. Spain, the longtime men's power that finally won its first World Cup early this decade, has started to take its other se-

nior squad—and the women's game in general—seriously in recent years. And with first-class infrastructure—think coaches, stadiums, and training facilities—already in place, it has been able to close the gap on the elite teams considerably in short order.

Jill Ellis knew it. So the U.S. coach, anticipating a potential knockout round meeting on her sport's biggest stage, was eager to schedule the Spaniards early this year. The match happened in January, with Ellis' side prevailing 1-0 on a Christen Press goal in what some might have considered a meaningless friendly at the time. On Monday, the lessons learned that day may end

up proving invaluable.

"It was really actually purposeful why we wanted to play them earlier in the year," Ellis said after the U.S. rolled past Sweden on Thursday to close out the group stage. "You get a sense of a team, and obviously a good team ... we'll need to have a very good preparation and performance to do well against them."

The Spaniards posted a 1-1-1 record to finish as runners-up in Group B, losing only to heavy-weight Germany by a single goal, one of just two they've conceded so far. It marked the first time the country advanced to the second round after making its World Cup debut four years ago.

Their progress at the youth level is even more pronounced: Last year, La Roja won FIFA's under-17 Women's World Cup, while the U-20s finished second in their own age group.

"Their women's program has gotten increasingly better through the years," U.S. defender Kelley O'Hara told reporters on Saturday. And as much as there is a sense that their senior squad is stuck between generations — all-time top scorer Vero Boquete is no longer with the national team — and not quite ready for prime-time yet, Spain can still cause the Americans problems.

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Kawhi considering
re-signing with
Raptors

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France wins to
set up potential
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kanoa FC rises to top



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Kanoa Football Club U12 player, right, runs after the ball against MP United defenders during their game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For the first three or four years of its existence, Kanoa Football Club was a regular cellar dweller in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized competitions. The group did not simply lose games—opponents blew them out that your fingers would not be enough to count the margin.

Despite the many years of struggle, Kanoa remained steadfast to its program, recruiting players from schools and training them for the tough battles ahead and the painful experience of more losses, too.

Slowly, Kanoa turned the defeats into victories and the club grew to build teams that are competitive enough to win championships. In the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth



League, Kanoa ruled all, but one of the age group titles, taking the co-ed U12, boys U15, girls U16, and girls U19 division crowns (it missed the boys U18 championship that went to MP United FC). The club, which was founded in 2012, also topped the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League, making Kanoa the group with the most titles in a

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CNMI loses to New Zealand

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

New Zealand denied the CNMI an outright entry to the playoff round of the 2019 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament after pulling off an upset, 8-3, yesterday at the Hwaseong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea.

A six-run top of the sixth inning gave New Zealand its first win in three games and handed the Commonwealth its first loss after prevailing over Vietnam and Hong

Kong over the weekend.

Before making six runs in the pivotal top of the sixth, New Zealand was down by 1 after five complete innings, 2-3. The CNMI scored three runs at the bottom of the second, while New Zealand had one each in the first and third.

After losing the shaky lead, the Commonwealth players were shut down at the bottom of the sixth and last inning

to drop their third match and put them in a must-win situation against Chinese-Taipei tomorrow.



Chinese-Taipei is unbeaten in two games following an 18-0 demolition of Vietnam (0-2). The CNMI needs to stun Chinese-Taipei to finish in the Top 2 and avoid a tiebreak for the second and last playoff berth in Pool B. Hong Kong, which holds an even 1-1 re-

cord, will play Chinese-Taipei first today before battling Vietnam tomorrow and may end up tied with the CNMI (with a defeat to Chinese-Taipei) at 2-2 mark if it splits its last two matches. New Zealand will duel winless Vietnam and a victory would also give the Kiwis a 2-2 record, creating a three-way logjam for the No. 2 spot in the team rankings.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club players celebrate after scoring against MP United FC in their playoff game for the boys U15 division title in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



MARC VENUS

Tania Tan, center, poses with Rotary Club of Saipan president Greg Borja, left, and McDonald's Saipan co-owner Marcia Ayuyu during the awards ceremony for the 5th Annual Rotary McFun 5K Run at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan last Saturday.

Sato, Tan win Rotary McFun Run

By MARC VENUS
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REPORTER

Kosuke Sato and Tania Tan emerged as the top finishers in last Saturday's 5th Annual Rotary McFun 5K Run.

Sato was the overall No. 1 finisher and ruled the men's 40 to 49 men's division. He completed the run from Carolinian Utt in Garapan and back with a turnaround point



across National Office Supply in 18:22.

Tan captured the overall women's division title, as clocked in at 20:35, besting the 20:40 he recorded when she won the same race in 2018.

Sato and Tan joined more than 200 runners in the event hosted by McDonald's Saipan and the Rotary Club

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